

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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THE EDUCATION SCHEME.

MR. FORSTER, we think, must by this time be convinced that he was a little over-sanguine when he fancied that he had framed a scheme for supplying primary education that would satisfy all parties; for it is doubtful whether his proposals fully content any party, and it is certain that a not inconsiderable or uninfluential portion of the community are very much dissatisfied with them indeed. In fact, as we said a fortnight ago, it is now clear that Mr. Forster has not concocted a plan of *national* education at all, but merely proposes an extension of the existing *denominational* system, to be worked in a slightly different way, and with some features introduced that are sure to evoke a vast deal of social warfare and sectarian animosity, and in all probability to frustrate the object all educational reformers have in view. The so-called "religious difficulty" is not solved, and is likely to become more prominent and more troublesome than ever. The reports we publish in another column—which only record the meetings of one day, and are given

merely as a specimen of what is going on—show that Mr. Forster's compromise has failed, and that the bill must undergo very considerable amendment ere it can be accepted as a settlement of the question.

Though it is always of importance in controversy to have a distinct definition of the sense in which words are used, it is not often that falling back upon radical significations very much helps to make men of one mind, or to render agreement on disputed points more easy. And yet it seems to us that a reference to the derivation and meaning of this word "religion," about which there is so much controversy, might end in a solution of the difficulty that stands in the way of devising a thoroughly national scheme of education. Taking our word "religion" as compounded of the Latin "re," "again"—and "legare," "to bind"—that is, binding again—a light seems to be thrown on the question that may help to remove an obstacle from our path. Religion binds again—firstly, men to their Creator; and, secondly, men to each other. The first is the work of the Church; the

second that of the State. The Church is concerned with the relations of men to God; the State with the relations of men to each other. The one labours to effect a divine, the other an earthly, union. It is clear, therefore, that the functions of the Church and of the State are as distinct as are their aims, though both, in a certain sense, are engaged in promoting religion—in re-binding—and the efforts of each may re-act in aid of those of the other. The Church, in binding men to God, may help to bind them to each other; and the State, in binding men together, may aid in re-binding them to God. But the immediate objects of the two institutions are perfectly distinct, as are—or ought to be—the means they employ. And a clear appreciation of the distinctive functions of the Church and of the State, as well as of the means they may respectively use to accomplish their ends, indicates at once the part each may play in this great work of educating the people. The State may undertake that portion of the work which tends to bind men to each other—to form and preserve



"DON'T MEDDLE WITH WOMAN'S WORK."—(PICTURE BY H. SONDERMANN.)

a community, in short; that is, it may concern itself with secular instruction, so as to fit men to be good and useful citizens on earth. The Church—using the word in its widest and most comprehensive sense as implying all sacred associations—ought to employ itself in raising men to union with their Creator, and fitting them for citizenship in heaven. Are not those two functions perfectly distinct, though mutually co-operative? And ought not each portion of the work to be intrusted to distinct agencies: the divine portion to the Church and her ministers, and the secular part to the State and its schoolmasters? In other words, is it not plain, from these considerations, that our national schools should confine themselves to the teaching of secular mundane affairs, and leave matters heavenly to the care of the clergy, whose proper concern they are? It may be that secular instruction sometimes fails in forming good citizens—that is, honest, industrious, temperate men; but then it is also true that theological teaching does not invariably succeed in rendering people really pious. Both have, however, a powerful influence in the direction at which they aim; and we must be content to put up with occasional failure in consideration of general success.

A great deal of what we cannot help thinking unconsidered nonsense is talked and written about what is called "irreligious education" and "Godless knowledge" in connection with national schools. But this is surely a mere using of words without meaning, a mistaking of sound for sense; for how can any school instruction—as school instruction is usually imparted—be either "irreligious" or "Godless"? There is nothing essentially irreligious in learning to read, write, and count; and if we go a little higher, and take in the science, say, of geography—physical, political, or topographical—we have a clear teaching of religion in its highest sense—a training of the mind to trace effects to causes, and therefore a leading up to the First Great Cause of All. To open up the volume of natural science to the human mind, is essentially to teach religion—to draw men "through nature up to nature's God"—and so to bind man to his Maker by making him familiar with the Creator's works. Of course, this is not revealed religion; but still it is religion. It is not dogmatic theology; but it is theology—discoursing of God—nevertheless. And who shall dare to say that such culture—the teaching of God in nature—is not an excellent preparation for sowing the seed of the Word? Are not tilled fields better suited for the labours of the sower than unreclaimed moors? And will not the minister of religion find the mind that has been so far broken up, so to speak, as to be capable of understanding his words when he teaches it theology, discourses to it of God, better suited for his purposes than one that has received no cultivation whatever, but is sunk in brutish, unintellectual, unimpressionable ignorance and stupidity?

Then the very discipline of school is a teaching of religion—a binding of men directly to each other, and indirectly, to God. The schoolmaster exacts obedience: that inculcates the duty of obeying the laws and those who administer them. He insists upon the performance of tasks—the learning of lessons: that implies the diligent doing of whatever duty may be required of the pupil through life. He sets his face as a flint against lying, meanness, skulking, deception, and other unworthy acts: this is to create a habit of truthful, manly, open, diligent, and generous action. He administers a system of rewards and punishments: that begets a spirit of honourable emulation in well-doing, and an abhorrence of neglect and consequent failure. We might multiply illustrations; but enough has been said to show that school discipline is a teaching of religion: in a mundane sense, by binding men together by an habitual performance of mutual duties; and in a heavenly sense, by implying the performance of duty to the Creator. And all this may be, and is, accomplished without in the slightest degree interfering with freedom of thought on theological matters—without wounding the susceptibilities of religious bodies—without trenching upon their equality before the law; in short, without either inculcating special sectarian tenets or outraging dogmatic belief.

A word now as to a point in connection with the machinery of Mr. Forster's scheme, which, so far as we have observed, has never yet been touched upon. We mean the status of the schoolmaster under it. In order that teaching may be effective, you must have efficient, skilful, intelligent, zealous teachers. And how are these to be secured under Mr. Forster's plan? Does it hold out a likelihood of either sufficient remuneration or sufficient permanence of tenure to induce able men to devote themselves to the work of the schoolmaster? Inferior teachers are the rule now, and good ones the exception, because the salaries offered are not sufficient to induce really able men to adopt teaching as a profession. Will matters be mended in this respect under the auspices of niggardly local boards, the members of which, in numerous instances, will be incapable of either appreciating the value of the schoolmaster's work or of honouring his office? Then, where is the schoolmaster's guarantee of permanence in his position? Supposing the initiatory battle of the sects over, the local school board formed, and the school erected, then will come the choosing of a teacher, and, naturally, the sect that has conquered will select a man of their way of thinking. He is pretty sure to outrage the notions of dissentients. A new contest will arise; the balance of parties may be changed; and what will be the schoolmaster's position then? He will either be dismissed, be compelled to resign, or have things made so uncomfortable as to destroy the usefulness of his labours. Churchman,

Dissenter, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Independent, Unitarian, may alternately be chosen to fill, or be ejected from, the district pedagogue's chair; and what good is likely to be derived from a national system of education under circumstances like these? The schoolmaster would either be a sort of recruiting-sergeant for some particular sect of religionists, or he would be tabooed by all if he refused to be the tool of any. And is it probable that good teachers can be obtained on such conditions as these? We throw not; and therefore we hold that, on this as well as on other grounds, the national schools should be free from all sectarian influences; that the work done there should be of a purely secular character; that only mundane religion—the binding of men to each other—should be aimed at in them; and that heavenly religion—the binding of men to God—should be left to its proper ministers, the parents of the children and their respective clergymen.

"WOMAN'S WORK."

It is all very well for an artist to idle away his time, because it is a part of his regular profession; but when he induces busy people to neglect their work, what can be said for him? Such is the depravity of human nature, however, that we all like to have an excuse for idleness sometimes; and the life of a wandering painter is as good an excuse as any other, especially if he has first knocked off a complimentary portrait, and then keeps you laughing with his droll stories and innocent fun. The peculiarity of these people ("artists and such") is that, though they won't do their own work, they'll try to accomplish anything else with which they have no earthly business. A spinning-wheel, for instance, offers irresistible temptations to a fellow of the sort represented by our own artist, who, no doubt, in the absence of any other subject—or, what is more likely, being too lazy to look for one—gives us a pictorial account of one of his own adventures in Southern Germany. However, that it really tells its own story is, after all, saying a good deal for it. We may be satisfied if our own work does as much, whatever it may be.

EMIGRATION TO VIRGINIA.

LETTER FROM MR. GOLDWIN SMITH.

The following letter has been received from Mr. Goldwin Smith by a friend in England:—

My dear —,—In case your mind should be turned, as I see the minds of many in England are turned, to emigration as the means of escaping the economical difficulties and perils which, I fear, are gathering round the country, let me beg you not to overlook the opening just now presented in the Southern States—especially in Virginia—where there is a great demand for emigrants to fill the void created by the civil war, and where the death of slavery has left vacant a rich heritage on which free labour may at once enter. People's eyes have hitherto been fixed too exclusively on New York and the West. Virginia is a magnificent State, in point of resources and capabilities as well as in point of extent and situation. The soil is rich, including excellent wheat land, particularly in the west; in the east it has been somewhat exhausted, though I presume not irreparably, by slave culture. On the Chesapeake Bay and along the James River there are some unhealthy tracts, which, of course, should be avoided; but the climate of the State generally is healthy as well as temperate. It is a great thing for the emigrant, in every respect, to escape the long and severe winters of the North and West. The old planters, who at first clung to their estates, though they had lost their slaves, seem now to have made up their minds to sell; and land is offered cheap, in some cases with buildings, though I suppose dilapidated by the war. Slavery is really dead and buried, and the anti-industrial sentiment which prevailed under the old régime, and barred the Southern States against industrial emigration, would no longer be found in the way. The people are the most English of all Americans; they are very friendly to the mother country, and very anxious that their State should be filled up by English emigrants, not by the carpet-baggers and their train. In the Northern States the English emigrant now finds himself, I am sorry to say, not only in a foreign, but in a hostile country. Wherever the blame may lie, or whatever the cause may be, this is the fact; and I cannot help being sensible of it, in spite of the satisfactoriness of my own position, and the kindness with which I am personally received. A principal source of the ill-feeling, no doubt, are the Irish, from whom the Southern States are, at present, entirely free, though, if the vacuum is not filled, it is too probable that they may flow in. An English Virginia would be the best counterpoise to the Irish vote, and the best counteraction to the bias which, in all matters between the two nations, the hope of winning that vote gives to the language and conduct of the politicians of this country. There are a good many English here, it is true; but they are scattered; they neither act together as Englishmen nor amalgamate with the Americans, few of them comparatively becoming naturalised, and thus, though nobody denies that they are good citizens, better citizens than the Irish or most of the Germans, and though in the civil war they contributed to the army five times as many men in proportion to their numbers as the Irish did, they meet the fate of the weak, count for nothing in the calculations of politicians, and are collectively the constant objects of denunciation and insult. I see some people are labouring to turn the stream of emigration to Canada, but this is merely turning it by a roundabout course, into the Northern States, into which, sooner or later, a large proportion of the emigrants straggle on. The climate of Canada is terribly severe for the emigrant; the winter, terribly long, devouring a great part of the fruits of his summer labour; and, the soil being so heavily timbered, clearing is severe work. I heartily wish prosperity to Canada, with which I am myself connected, and which is, in fact, my home on this continent; but, depend upon it, Virginia is the land of hope for the English in America. There is a Virginia Land Company, with an office in New York, presided over by General Imboden, one of the Confederate commanders, who has "accepted the situation." I have had some communication with these gentlemen and seen their papers, and probably you will hear of them in England. It is a pity there is not a direct passage to Virginia; had there been, emigration would probably have taken that course before.

CORDON CLUB.—We understand that preliminary arrangements have been made for the establishment of a new Liberal clubhouse, and that the committee of the Cordon Club have issued a circular expressing their belief in the existence of a general feeling as to the necessity of further clubhouse accommodation for the Liberal party, and inquiring how far the members of the Cordon Club would individually be prepared to support the scheme above referred to.

M. EMILE OLLIVIER AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.—At a dinner given on Monday by the Marquis d'Andelarre to the members of the Right and Left Centres of the Corps Législatif, M. Emile Ollivier replied to the toast of "The Imperial Family and the Liberal Cabinet of January 2," and said he desired the constant and closest union between the members of both Centres of the Chamber and of the Government with them. "Our strength," said M. Ollivier, "consists in this, that we are not installed in office by a stroke of chance or a caprice of fortune. We are the result of a powerful effort of the country and the will of the Chamber. Our partisans are neither courtiers nor flatterers; they are the friends of former days—the comrades in our contests; and the new friends who have joined us have not done so because of our sudden elevation, but to render homage to a long persistence in the same principles, and to assist in procuring the triumph of our cause. And is not that cause a worthy one? The peaceful establishment of liberty, the foundation by democracy of a national dynasty;—with such a noble object in view, who could refuse to forego his personal prepossessions, his dislikes, and his hesitations—who could feel any other ambition than that of sharing in the common work? Be assured that in the patriotic army we lead there will be equal glory for the simple soldier as for the chiefs. The latter enjoy special privileges only because they receive the heaviest blows. Confidence! Continue to us your support; and do not allow yourselves to be dismayed by the faults that we have committed, nor by those which certainly we shall commit. The errors of political men are the black sheep which the ancients sacrificed only to destroy. While supporting us, point out our failings to us. And if sometimes, overborne by the weight of affairs and by anxieties, we receive you with impatience or with somewhat of irritation, do not be discouraged. Insist. Do as the surgeon who places his hand upon the wound, despite the cries of the patient, in order to apply the treatment which will lead to cure. Be friendly towards each other, and be confident. Notwithstanding difficulties, notwithstanding unforeseen accidents, I tell you we shall conquer." This speech was received with loud cheers by the audience, which included all the members of the Left Centre and the eighteen deputies forming the Executive Commission of the Right Centre.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

An Imperial decree, dated the 2nd inst., promotes Monseigneur Genoulhiac, Bishop of Grenoble, to the dignity of Archbishop of Lyons.

In the Legislative Body, on Wednesday, a discussion took place relative to Algerian affairs. M. Emile Ollivier replied to speeches delivered by M. Jules Favre and Count Lehon demanding the abrogation of art. 27 of the Constitution, whereby the Senate is empowered to regulate the administration of Algeria. The Minister of Justice said the Cabinet was of opinion that certain matters had been introduced into the Constitution which rather appertained to the domain of legislation. He added that the Ministry intended to examine the whole question in conjunction with the Emperor, in order to submit to the Senate a comprehensive measure to include all modifications of the Constitution which might be deemed necessary. M. Emile Ollivier explained that the Cabinet had adopted this course in deference to the views expressed by the Senate, which, more particularly in connection with the question of examining the mode of nominating the Mayors, had deprecated frequent modifications in the Constitution and the successive abandonment of its prerogatives. He further stated that the Ministry had not yet decided upon the general character of the intended modifications. All he could now say was that they included the abrogation of art. 27. M. Jules Favre declared that he considered the explanations given by the Minister of Justice satisfactory to a certain extent. With regard to the Minister's statement of projected modifications of the Constitution, he maintained that the Senate and the Legislative Body should have the same origin—namely, election by the people. He also demanded that a bill should be brought in for the representation of Algeria, but he opposed the extension of electoral rights to the natives. The Chamber subsequently approved unanimously the following order of the day, signed by MM. Jules Favre, Crémieux, Dréolle, Gambetta, Keller, Count de Keratry, &c.:—"That, after hearing the declarations of the Government, and considering that the introduction of the civil régime in Algeria appears to reconcile the interests of the natives and Europeans, the Chamber passes to the order of the day."

According to the *Patrie*, the despatch which the French Government has sent to Rome on the subject of the dogma of Papal infallibility, so far from having a comminatory character, was drawn up in terms of the most courteous deference. The French Government, it adds, explains that, in all matters exclusively theological, it maintains the attitude of reserve it has hitherto taken up. As, however, the Council appears disposed to extend its action beyond those matters, and to enter upon mixed questions, such as civil marriage and education, in which the principles and interests of civil society are directly involved, the French Government, as a Catholic power, claims its traditional right to send a special representative to the deliberations. Should the Council set aside this claim, the Ministers would have to submit the subject to the Chamber and to public opinion. The *Public* states that the Prince de Broglie is to be sent to the Council as the representative of France. It is believed in diplomatic circles in Paris that the Pope, in order to avoid acceding to the demand of France, may adjourn the Council before the decision of the question of his personal infallibility.

ROME.

Intelligence from Rome announces that in consequence of the publication of the various *Schemata*, several of which, particularly that relative to the infallibility of the Pope, undoubtedly trench upon political ground, the French Government has declared it impossible to continue the attitude of non-intervention towards the Ecumenical Council hitherto maintained. It has, therefore, officially demanded that a special representative of the French Government may be admitted to take part in the deliberations of the Council, at least so far as relates to the points touched upon in these *Schemata*. Up to the present Cardinal Antonelli has merely acknowledged the receipt of the communication from the French Government, and has stated that their request will be taken into consideration and a reply be subsequently given.

ITALY.

The Minister for War has ordered the dismissal, on unlimited furlough, of the soldiers of the class of 1865. The total dismissals amount now to 30,000 men.

A famous brigand, Pasquale Torreggiani, of Trapani, in Sicily, after having set the laws at defiance for seven years, has at last paid the penalty of his misdeeds. After many a hairbreadth escape by flood and field, poor Pasquale fell a victim to the master-passion, and was ignominiously caught by the strings of a woollen petticoat, worn by an easy Trapanese nymph with whom the dashing bandit condescended now and then to while away a leisure hour. Surprised in one of these unguarded moments by a party of carabinieri, Torreggiani made a stout resistance, killed the first man that ventured to lay hands upon him, and was afterwards shot down by the rest. His mantle will doubtless fall upon the shoulders of some worthy successor; for, though brigands be slain by the score, brigandage is not so easily exterminated, and if the evil is diminishing in certain districts it continues to flourish in others with unabated vigour.

SPAIN.

A band of 150 Carlists, under the command of General Ramon, has made its appearance in the province of Tarragona. A detachment of the Civil Guards has been dispatched against them.

GERMANY.

In last Saturday's sitting of the North German Parliament the bill relating to the extension of the North German system of weights and measures to the South German States was adopted. The bill is to come into force when the assimilation of the coinage is effected. In reply to a question, Herr Dalbrück announced that the Federal Governments intend to introduce the necessary bills on this subject next Session.

A change has taken place in the Government of Bavaria, Prince Hohenlohe being superseded by Count Bray. As to the policy of the new Minister, the semi-official *Provincial Correspondenz*, after a few commendatory words on Prince Hohenlohe for the endeavours he had made to re-establish close national ties between the Southern States and the North German Confederation, says:—"The political antecedents and the well-known sentiments of the new Minister who took a part in the conclusion of the offensive and defensive treaty between Bavaria and Prussia, should be a certain guarantee that the Bavarian Government is firmly resolved to continue the policy of a national tendency, and both to observe and maintain it in its relations with the North German Confederation."

AUSTRIA.

Advices from Vienna state that Count Beust is perfectly satisfied with the communication he has had from Rome in reply to his note on the subject of the Ecumenical Council. Count Beust, it is stated, had no desire to enter into a diplomatic controversy. All he wanted to do was to give expression to public opinion in Austria on the subject of the Council, and indicate thus to the Vatican that no encroachments on the rights of the State would be tolerated. Cardinal Antonelli's announcement that the note is accepted *ad referendum* is therefore regarded by the Vienna Cabinet as quite satisfactory.

HUNGARY.

At a conference held at the house of Herr Deak, last week, the Minister, Baron Eotvos, laid before the meeting the draught of a bill respecting freedom of public worship. By the provisions of the bill everyone is allowed to practise the creed to which they belong; free religious communities are allowed to be established; marriage is to be a civil contract, and complete liberty of action is allowed to parents with regard to the education of their children.

TURKEY.

The Porte has addressed a circular to the Powers in reference to the Montenegro question. The circular declares that the Porte is determined not to cede its suzerain rights, but proposes to call a mixed commission of Turks and Montenegrins in order to define the private properties on the disputed tract of territory. The Powers are invited to instruct their Consuls to attend the sittings of the Commission.

An Imperial decree has been issued authorising merchant vessels to pass by night through the Bosphorus and the Straits of the Dardanelles, and all entrance dues have been abolished.

THE UNITED STATES.

The House of Representatives, by 114 against 71 votes, has passed the bill admitting Georgia into the Union. The bill was amended so as to provide that the present State officers and the Legislature should continue in office during their constitutional term only.

Resolutions were introduced in the Senate on Tuesday, and referred to the Finance Committee, providing that half the amount of the import duties should henceforth be receivable in currency, and instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell all surplus gold.

The majority of the Congressional Investigating Committee have issued a report exonerating President Grant from all charges of complicity in the gold speculation of last September.

The Legislature of Missouri have passed a bill providing for the payment in gold of the principal and interest of the bonds of that State.

The New Hampshire elections took place on Tuesday, and the Republicans again carried the State, but by a reduced majority.

MEXICO.

According to advices from Mexico the Juarez party declare that the insurrection in the Northern States of the Republic is being rapidly suppressed.

CANADA.

By a despatch from Toronto we are told that the attempt of Dr. Schultz to put down Rielle's Government at Fort Garry has failed. The settlers generally declined to support the movement, and Dr. Schultz's force was dispersed or captured. Dr. Schultz himself escaped, but Major Boulton was made prisoner.

It is reported that Sir John Young, the Governor-General, intends to leave Ottawa for the Red River Territory immediately upon the adjournment of Parliament.

INDIA.

The Viceroy, accompanied by his private secretary and chief commissioner, opened the Chanda coal-field on the 1st inst. His Excellency arrived at Akola on the 4th, after a ride of a hundred miles through the coal and cotton country. He was received with great ceremony by the resident, Sir Salar Young. His Excellency opened the Khangaum Railway, and proceeded to Jubbalpore on the 7th inst. to meet the Duke of Edinburgh, who will open the Great Indian Peninsular through line.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

We have advices from the Cape of Good Hope to the 4th ult. The Cape Parliament was in session; but, beyond the introduction of a bill for abolishing capital punishment, nothing of importance had transpired. Bishop Twells's resignation had been accepted by the Provincial Synod. The Basutos had cleared out of the Free State, and farms were in consequence selling well.

THE THORNCLEIFFE COLLIERIES.—On Saturday last, according to a resolution passed at a meeting held on the previous day, a deputation from the late workmen, who have now been out a year, waited on Messrs. Newton and Chambers at their offices at Thorncliffe, with a view to bringing the dispute to a close. The main point in dispute was that which related to the reduction of wages required as one of the conditions for resuming work. On the deputation arriving at the office, the members were at once met by Messrs. Newton and Chambers, when the question was put by one of the firm as to whether they were prepared on behalf of the men to accept the terms proposed. On being answered that they were not, but were prepared to discuss the subject, they were informed that the decision came to a few days since, and made known to Lord Wharnccliffe and Mr. Stanhope, could not be departed from; therefore there was nothing whatever left to discuss. The deputation then withdrew, and made known to their fellow-workmen the result of their mission. As was generally expected at the time of the intervention of Lord Wharnccliffe and Mr. Stanhope, matters remain just where they were, so that there is now no chance of the dispute terminating, and the collieries for the future will be worked on "free labour" principles. The members of the firm state that they are merely carrying out the policy initiated last March by the late Messrs. J. and W. Chambers, who were admitted to be among the most astute and thoroughly practical business men to be found among the colliery owners of South Yorkshire.

COUNT MONTALEMBERT AND THE PAPACY.—Count Montalembert has published a long letter defending himself from the charge of inconsistency in having formerly opposed Gallicanism, and now condemning the Ultramontane party at Rome. What he formerly opposed was in effect Erastianism; "It was solely the oppressive or vexatious intervention of the temporal power in spiritual interests, an interference which a portion of our old and illustrious French clergy had sometimes too easily accepted. But I venture to say (Count Montalembert adds) that you will not find, any more in my speech of 1847 than in my other speeches or writings, a single word in conformity with the doctrines or pretensions of the Ultramontanes of the present day; and that for an excellent reason—which is, that nobody had thought of advocating or raising them during the period between my entrance into public life and the advent of the Second Empire. Never, thank Heaven, have I thought, said, or written anything favourable to the personal and separate infallibility of the Pope, such as it is sought to impose upon us; nor to the theocracy, the dictatorship of the Church, which I did my best to reprobate in that history of the 'Monks of the West.'" In conclusion, Count Montalembert writes:—"Without having either the will or the power to discuss the question now debating in the Council, I hail with the most grateful admiration, first, the great and generous Bishop of Orleans, then the eloquent and intrepid priests who have had the courage to place themselves across the path of the torrent of adulation, imposture, and servility by which we risk being swallowed up. Thanks to them, Catholic France will not have remained too much below Germany, Hungary, and America. I publicly pride myself, and more than I can express by words, to have them for friends and for brother academicians. I have but one regret—that of being prevented by illness from descending into the arena in their suite—not certainly on the ground of theology, but on that of history and of the social and political consequences of the system they contend against."

SERIOUS DISASTER AT SIENA.—A terrible accident took place, a few days ago, on the occasion of a meeting held by the Working Men's Society at Siena. The members were summoned for the purpose of electing one of their body to the office of accountant, and everything was proceeding in the usual manner, when, from some as yet unexplained cause, the floor of the room gave way in the centre, and about 160 persons, or about half the number assembled, suddenly disappeared from view amidst a deafening crash that was instinctively taken for the shock of an earthquake. The scene was a most extraordinary one, and some time elapsed before those who remained unhurt could form any clear idea of what had occurred. The noise of the cracking rafters, mingled with the piercing shrieks of the sufferers; the dense clouds of dust raised by the crumbling rubbish, the terror and bewilderment of the bystanders, the rapid hurrying to and fro of the people in the streets, the shouts for help, the smashing of window-panes to obtain a breath of air, the frantic stampede that followed among those who found themselves upon the brink of the yawning gulf; the horrible sounds that issued from the writhing, heaving, struggling mass of confused humanity beneath, combine to form an appalling picture for the imagination, however words may rebel from the task of describing its several features of anguish and consternation. As soon as the real nature of the disaster became known, all the available resources of the city were put in requisition for the relief of the victims. The syndic and the prefect, the officers and soldiers of the garrison, the Brothers of Mercy, and medical men from the hospital, were soon on the spot; the people opened their houses for the reception of the wounded as, one by one, they were extricated from their fearful position. Subscriptions were at once set on foot for the benefit of the sufferers and a daily allowance voted for the support of their families; everyone, in short, did his utmost to mitigate the consequences of the calamity. Strange to say, all the persons who had been surprised by this somewhat rare catastrophe were found still alive, although many were frightfully mutilated and are now lying in a very precarious state. There are, in all, about fifty members of the society now lying with fractured limbs in the hospital or in other public establishments, without counting those who are being tended at their own houses, or who escaped with minor casualties.

THE TRIAL OF PRINCE PIERRE BONAPARTE.

The following is published as the text of the *acte d'accusation* in the case of Prince Pierre Bonaparte:—

The Procureur Impérial of the High Court of Justice sets forth that by its judgment of Feb. 18, 1870, the Chambre des Mises en Accusation of the said Court has sent before the High Court, appointed to sit at Tours on March 21, 1870, Prince Pierre Napoleon Bonaparte, to be tried there in conformity with the law.

The Procureur-Général declares that the instruction and documentary evidence have elicited the following facts:—

On Jan. 10 last, at about half-past one o'clock in the afternoon, Messrs. Yvan Salmon, commonly called Victor Noir, and Ulric de Fonvielle, editors of the *Marseillaise* newspaper, proceeded to Auteuil, to the residence of Prince Pierre Napoleon Bonaparte. They had undertaken to deliver to him, on behalf of M. Paschal Grousset, a challenge on the occasion of a letter from the Prince inserted on Dec. 30 last in the *Avenir de la Corse* newspaper. M. Paschal Grousset pretended that he was insulted in that letter, although he was not named therein, and required a reparation by means of a duel (*réparation par les armes*). He (M. Grousset) had accompanied his two seconds to Auteuil.

On his side, Prince Pierre had on a previous day, Jan. 9, sent a challenge to M. Rochefort, editor of the *Marseillaise*, on account of an article bearing the signature "Lavigne," wherein he was insulted.

Whilst M. Paschal Grousset waited outside in the street with another person they had met on the way and taken with them, MM. Noir and de Fonvielle were ushered into the Prince's presence. A few moments afterwards M. Victor Noir came tottering out of the house, and sank on the flagstones. Soon after M. de Fonvielle rushed out of the house, bareheaded, brandishing in his right hand a six-barrelled revolver, and shouting "Murder!" (*à l'assassin*).

M. Noir was immediately carried into a neighbouring apothecary's shop, where he breathed his last without having uttered a single word. He had received a gunshot wound in the region of his heart, and the injury had caused a hæmorrhage, producing almost instant death (*presque foudroyante*).

The overcoat of M. de Fonvielle also bore the marks of a shot. What had taken place inside the Prince's house? What had been the circumstances of the scene which had just terminated so painfully?

Two versions are in evidence—that of M. de Fonvielle and that of the Prince.

Here is the first, such as it was formulated by M. de Fonvielle in the course of the preliminary investigation (*instruction*):—

"I was charged, with my comrade Victor Noir, by our mutual friend M. Paschal Grousset, journalist, to make known to Prince Pierre Bonaparte that we were instructed to require satisfaction of him (*réparation par les armes*), Grousset alleging that he had been grossly insulted by the Prince.

"We met this morning—Noir, Grousset, and I—at the office of the *Marseillaise*. Noir had chartered a cab, the number of which I don't recollect. We left the office of the *Marseillaise* at about one o'clock, and drove to Auteuil direct. I do not exactly remember what way we took; but it strikes me that we drove by the side of the river and passed before the Trocadero.

"A little before our arrival at Auteuil, at a place which I am not able to specify, Noir called out to Santon, who got into the carriage with us.

"On our arrival before the Prince's house we all four alighted; we kept the carriage. Grousset and Santon remained outside, walking in front of the house; Noir and I went in. We spoke to two servants, and inquired if the Prince was at home; they replied in the affirmative, and asked our names. We gave our cards. A few moments after we were shown into a room on the first floor, which I believe to be a large drawing-room. We sat down. A little after—it might be six minutes—the Prince came out of an adjoining apartment; he wore a morning coat and very wide trousers.

"'Monsieur,' said I, 'my friend Victor Noir and I have come here on behalf of M. Paschal Grousset to discharge a duty which this letter will explain;' at the same time I handed to him the letter which you show me, and which I am prepared to sign *ne varietur*.

"The Prince took the letter, and replied to me—'You don't come on Rochefort's part, then? You are not some of his employés, then?' (*de ses manœuvres*).

"'Have the goodness to read this letter, Monsieur, and you will see that there is no question of M. Rochefort.'

"He took the letter, drew close to a window, read it, folded it in two, and throwing it on a chair, advanced to us.

"'I have challenged M. Rochefort (said he) because M. Rochefort is the standard-bearer of the drags of the populace (*de la crapule*). As for M. Grousset, I have no reply to make to him. Are you responsible for these wretches? (*êtes-vous solidaires de ces misérables*)?'

"'Monsieur,' I replied, 'we have come to you fairly, honestly, and courteously, to get an answer from you.'

"He interrupted—'Are you answerable for these people?'

Victor Noir replied, 'We are answerable for our friends.'

"The Prince slapped Victor Noir on the face, fell back a step or two, suddenly (*brusquement*) pulled a revolver out of the pocket into which he had plunged his hand, and fired at Noir. The latter clasped both hands on his chest, and went out by the door through which we had entered.

"Immediately the Prince turned his pistol towards me, and fired a second time, whilst I tried to get at a pistol which was in its case in the pocket of my great-coat.

"The Prince placed himself before the door, taking aim at me, and discharged his weapon a third time. I went out, shouting 'A l'assassin!' I went through several rooms, went down the staircase by which we had come up, and found Noir dying in the street before the door."

The narrative of Prince Pierre materially differs from that of M. de Fonvielle. Here are his declarations:—

"I wrote a letter to Rochefort, which is to be published in the papers this evening. I proposed to fight a duel with him. To-day, at about half-past two o'clock, I was in my room, in my dressing-gown and a pair of house trousers. I had only just got out of bed, after seeing my doctor, who has been attending me for several days for a severe attack of influenza. One of my female servants came to tell me that two gentlemen wished to see me, and gave me their cards. I thought these persons came from M. Rochefort, and ordered them to be shown in without looking at the names on the cards.

"I did not make them wait more than a minute at most. On entering the drawing-room I found myself before two individuals who had their hands in their pockets, and whose bearing was one of provocation. It appeared to me that they had put down their hats. I did not know these individuals, and had never seen them before. They told me, almost together, 'We are intrusted with this letter;' and one of them, the shorter, I think, handed me the letter you now show me, which is signed 'Paschal Grousset.'

"I looked at the letter superficially; I saw the signature, and I said, 'With Rochefort willingly—with one of his employés (*manœuvres*), no.' The taller then, addressing me in a dictatorial tone, said, 'Read the letter, then!'

"I replied, 'It is as good as read (*elle est toute lue*); are you responsible for it?' At these words the taller (Noir) struck me on the left cheek with his fist. I saw the shorter arming himself with a pistol which he drew from his pocket. He tried to cock it, resting it on his left hand, in which he held the case. I fell back a couple of steps. I pulled out of my right pocket a five-chambered revolver, which I habitually carry about me. I fired a shot at the taller. I was about two or three metres from him. He immediately turned round and left the drawing-room by the door of the gun-room, through which he had entered. All this lasted but a second.

The shorter had thrown himself behind an arm-chair and tried to fire at me. I then fired a shot at him, but he was not hit. He then left his place, and, half crouching, moved towards the other door of the drawing-room, which opens into the billiard-room. He passed close to me on the way; but, as his attitude was no longer threatening, I did not fire. He would have been killed close to the muzzle of the pistol (*presque à bout portant*). I followed him at a distance. When he got into the billiard-room, opposite to the dining-room door, he turned round and took aim at me with his pistol. I then fired at him another shot, which did not hit him; and the second individual disappeared in his turn."

Such is the version given by the accused. It is in formal opposition with that of M. de Fonvielle on the important question to be ascertained, by whom the first act of violence was committed in the scene of Jan. 10.

The information has elicited the following particulars:—

Several persons have noticed on the face of the accused the unequivocal mark of a blow. Dr. Marel, who saw the Prince at about half-past two, declares that he had a very red mark on the left cheek, with an appearance of swelling and ecchymosis. The same observation was made by Dr. Pinel and several other witnesses.

On the other hand, utterances which were noticed as having fallen from M. de Fonvielle tend to show that M. Victor Noir really struck the Prince in the face.

M. Lechautre, a butcher at Auteuil, whilst he was assisting in conveying the body of M. Victor Noir to the apothecary's, heard a person behind him say, "He has killed my friend; but no matter—he received a sound box on the ear (*un bon soufflet*)."

Immediately afterwards he heard M. de Fonvielle speaking in the apothecary's shop, and he says that he distinctly recognised the voice as that which had uttered the words just quoted.

Another witness, M. Viuviolet, architect, who was an eye-witness of the death of Victor Noir, and who heard M. de Fonvielle describe the scene, affirms that he declared that, after an exchange of words with the Prince, Victor Noir had advanced and slapped his face. On that same day M. Viuviolet related this to other persons, who have confirmed his declaration.

M. Mourgoine, architect, heard from the lips of M. de Fonvielle a phrase which, though not equally precise, is, nevertheless, very significant: "M. Victor Noir gave, or was about to give, the Prince a slap in the face." The witness affirms that M. de Fonvielle used one or other of these expressions.

Finally, at the police-station, whither he was taken to make his deposition, M. de Fonvielle, relating to the policeman present all the circumstances of his visit to the Prince and the words exchanged, added "that his friend, feeling himself affronted, advanced, and then, you understand . . . (*vous comprenez* . . .)."

The policemen explain that M. de Fonvielle, in uttering these words, raised his hand in the attitude of a man about to strike; they declare that, though M. de Fonvielle did not say that Noir struck the Prince, he at all events made a gesture, indicating that Noir must have struck a blow.

These various depositions are met by evidence, according to which M. de Fonvielle, immediately after the drama of Auteuil, had made a narrative which is exactly reproduced in his declarations before the examining magistrate. We must notice specially M. Grousset, M. Mortreux, the apothecary into whose shop the victim was transported, and Dr. Samazeuil, who witnessed his death. All three heard M. de Fonvielle relate that the accused had struck M. Victor Noir in the face before shooting him.

However that may be, and even were the version of the accused to be accepted, it is nevertheless established that he wilfully caused the death of M. Victor Noir: justice cannot admit that a crime is justified by the act of violence which the victim may have allowed himself to be dragged into committing.

It is equally certain that the accused twice fired his pistol at M. de Fonvielle.

In consequence, Prince Pierre Napoleon Bonaparte is accused—Firstly, of having, on Jan. 10 last, at Paris-Auteuil, committed the crime of voluntary homicide on the person of Yvan Salmon, commonly called Victor Noir.

With this circumstance, that that crime was followed by the crime specified hereunder.

Secondly, of having, on the same day, hour, and place, committed on the person of M. Ulric de Fonvielle an attempt at voluntary homicide, which attempt, manifested by a commencement of execution, failed through circumstances independent of the perpetrator's will.

With this circumstance, that this crime was preceded by that specified above.

Crimes foreseen and punished by articles 2, 295, and 304 of the Penal Code.

Done Feb. 28, 1870.

(Signed)

The Procureur-Général,
GRAND PERRET.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.—The Government bill proposes to repeal so much of various Acts relating to building societies, loan societies, scientific societies, friendly societies, and industrial societies, as provides for their obtaining certificates from the registrar of friendly societies or the barrister appointed to certify the rules of savings banks or of friendly societies. The bill provides, in lieu of this, that the societies may register their rules with the Board of Trade. The present registrars of friendly societies in Scotland and Ireland will perform such of the duties of registrar as the Board of Trade may assign to them. It will be for the County Court Judges in England, the Sheriffs or Sheriffs' substitutes in Scotland, and the Judges of the Civil Bill Courts in Ireland, to execute the duty of directing transfers to new trustees, and making awards under the Friendly Societies Acts. So far as relates to societies under the Building Societies, Loan Societies, and Scientific Societies Acts, the bill is not to extend to Scotland or Ireland.

THE NINE-HOURS MOVEMENT IN THE BUILDING TRADE.—The movement for the reduction in the hours of labour in the building trade, just set on foot by the carpenters, has been taken up by the other branches in the trade, and at a meeting of operatives—painters, bricklayers, masons, joiners, plasterers, &c.—held at the Lord Palmerston Tavern, Chelsea, on Saturday evening last, a society was formed to promote the nine-hours movement, and the following resolution was adopted:—"That an invitation be given to the various societies in the building trade to send delegates to the society for the purpose of co-operating with it, and making a united effort of both unionists and non-unionists to obtain the reduction of the hours of labour to nine per day, the present depressed state of trade affording a favourable opportunity for the attainment of that object." The above society is quite independent of the delegate meeting of the carpenters and joiners, exclusively, who have drawn up the new code of working rules for that branch of the trade.

SALE OF THE DERWENTWATER RELICS.—A large and interesting collection of cabinets, wardrobes, chests of drawers, portraits, old paintings, antique armour, and other curiosities, described as "the heirlooms and relics of the Derwentwater family," and the property of "Amelia, the Countess of Derwentwater," was, on Monday, offered for sale in Newcastle, and attracted a large assemblage of purchasers from London and all parts of the kingdom. The goods were stated to have been taken in execution by the Under-Sheriff of the county of Durham; and the auctioneer, in drawing attention to them, said they were all named in a remarkable schedule attached to what purported to be the original will of William Radclyffe. Of course, if the will was genuine, the whole of the articles enumerated in it must be genuine also; but of this he gave no guarantee, and the buyers would have to exercise their own discretion in their selections. The sale then proceeded with what were described as old chapel chairs from Dilston Castle, the prices being 11s. and 14s.; but a set of more roses, "embroidered on silk, with border of forget-me-nots, worked by the dainty fingers of the wife of the unfortunate Earl of Derwentwater," realised the sum of £4. This work had been expected to realise £100. A portrait of Prince James Stuart, the Pretender, said to be the work of Sir Godfrey Kneller, and valued at £1500, was then put up, in order to see if a sufficient sum could not be realised to satisfy the claims of the soi-disant Countess's numerous creditors. When the bids had risen to £200, and there seemed to be no further advance, Mr. Stokol, of Blaydon, a gentleman who had lent the Countess large sums of money previously, said he would give £1000, and the picture was at this price knocked down to him, amid the titters of the company. After a few other small articles had been disposed of, principally to known supporters of the "Countess," it was announced that sufficient money had been realised to satisfy the claims of the sheriff, and that the sale would be discontinued.



A RUSSIAN EQUIPAGE.

A RUSSIAN EQUIPAGE.

RUSSIAN horses are so various in breed and appearance that it is easy to adapt them to all kinds of service; and this is probably the reason why equipages of different sorts, and many of them of remarkably picturesque character, are a feature in the streets of St. Petersburg. The vast tracts of country where horses, half wild, and sprung from Tartar and pure Oriental stocks, herd in droves, render the selection of sires and dams comparatively easy, and during the last century great efforts have been made to improve the stock. Our readers may remember how successful the show of Russian horses was at the great Paris Exhibition of 1867; and at the last exhibition of horseflesh at Moscow there were magnificent specimens, selected from almost every hippic family in the empire. Among the most attractive of these were those used for rapid draughts and attached to light carriages, like that in our Engraving. They are attached to the vehicle three abreast, one between the shafts and one on each side, freely harnessed. Sometimes only one near-side horse accompanies the shaft-horse; and this near leader is called the "furious," because he goes at a gallop while his companion maintains a long trot. The most celebrated of the Russian horses are the Orloff trotters, introduced by Count Orloff sixty or seventy years ago. They are distinguished for a remarkably swift pace and great endurance; their colour being nearly always black, and their shape plump and graceful. There have sometimes been at Moscow above a hundred of these horses, the price of which varied from 3000*fr.* to 12,000*fr.* each. The history of this race of horses is curious. Count Orloff bought, for 60,000*fr.*, a pure Arab stallion, whose reputation was known far and wide, and crossed with a thoroughbred English

mare. The son of this pair crossed again with a thoroughbred Danish mare; and from this stock sprung the celebrated trotters, which are now principally bred in the pasturages of the central provinces, Voronege and Tamboff.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PARIS.

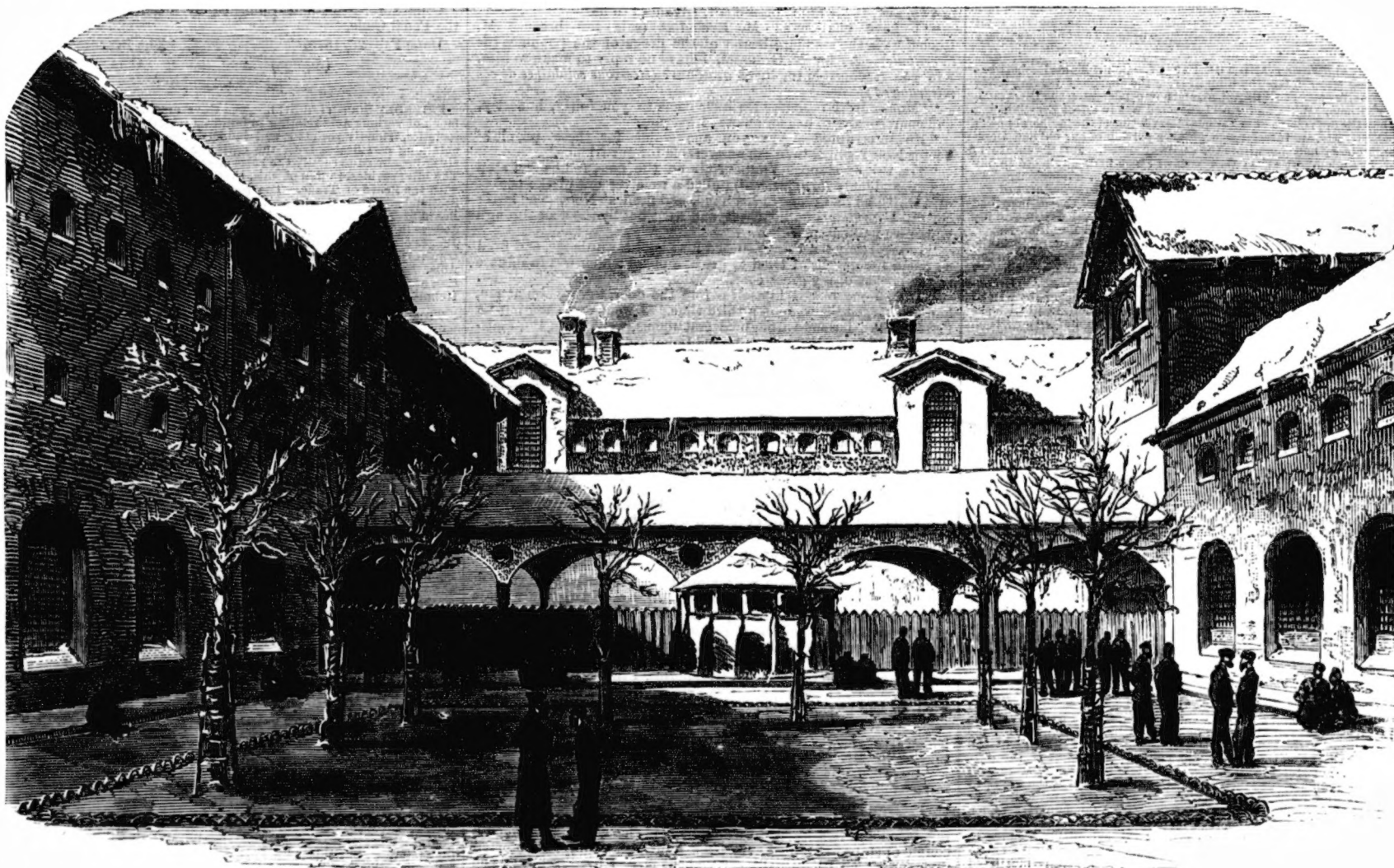
M. ROCHEFORT's complaint, that he is not permitted to work at a trade while undergoing imprisonment, refers, of course, to the fact that in most of the Paris prisons the inmates are either compelled or are at liberty to work; and their earnings, which amount to some £10,000 a year, are divided between them and the administration. Prisoners can also, in some cases, obtain superior lodgings, more dainty food, and may even be transferred from one prison to another, where the discipline is less severe, by payment of extra fees. Probably, however, the last privilege is not included in the new prison of La Santé, only just completed on the Boulevard Arago. The régime of the new prison is a compromise between the separate or cellular system and the old associated plan. It is composed of seven departments, the first, second, third, and fourth being under the same regulations as the Mazas. There the prisoners are confined on the solitary system, in six wings radiating like the spokes of a wheel from a central tower, the warders in which can see what is passing in the corridors on every side. There are three stories of cells in each flat—1260 in all—at the Mazas. When a prisoner receives permission to communicate with a friend, he descends to the *parloir*, where he is installed in one of a series of cells, each with an iron grate, through which he con-

verses with his visitor, who is placed in a similar box on the opposite side, the intervening passage being guarded by a warder, to intercept any letter or other forbidden article. This prison receives only persons who are awaiting trial.

This, then, is the plan in the four first sections of La Santé; the three others are on the associated plan, the prisoners living in common, unless they choose the separate system in preference, when (if we may use so paradoxical an expression) they are "at liberty" to be shut up by themselves.

The fifth of these divisions is reserved for prisoners condemned only to a light punishment, and no *criminal* is admitted there. It is in this section that some of the persons are confined who were arrested during the recent disturbances. The sixth division is reserved for aged prisoners, and here the rules are less rigorous, so that those incarcerated there may amuse themselves with books; and the punishment is little more than detention. Here, also, are some of the political *détenus*, and our Engraving represents the courtyard of this department, where the prisoners take exercise. In the other departments the inmates can read in the reading-room from ten till two o'clock. In the seventh division the discipline is much more severe, for it is, in fact, devoted to the "habitual criminals," frequently convicted thieves. Every other division is placed under the surveillance of two warders, but this has four or five, the number of its inmates being double that of any other section, and their characters, of course, more desperate.

The prisoners come down from their dormitories at six o'clock; have their soup breakfast at eight, dine at three, and retire at seven or eight o'clock, according to the season. As a sort of supplement to the Mazas the new prison is already an established institution, although the last stone has only just been laid.



THE PRISON OF LA SANTÉ, PARIS, WHERE POLITICAL OFFENDERS ARE CONFINED.



THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS ROYAL OF DENMARK.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF DENMARK.

POLITICAL rumours in Paris are still as changeable and as unfounded as ever, and the Bourse, sensitive as a fine barometer, fluctuates with every canard. Even the suspicion of the deep design of Prussia for effecting the consolidation of German unity, by absorbing Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Bavaria, finds some credit still, and the Parisians congratulate themselves that the youthful Prince who represents the reigning house of Denmark has a decided sympathy with French ideas.

Our readers will remember, however, that it is not by any alliance with France that Denmark will hold its own, since it has made a closer alliance still with Sweden, in the marriage of the Prince to Princess Louise, only child of Charles XV. and Louise, eldest daughter of Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, uncle of the King of Holland. This marriage is, of course, immensely

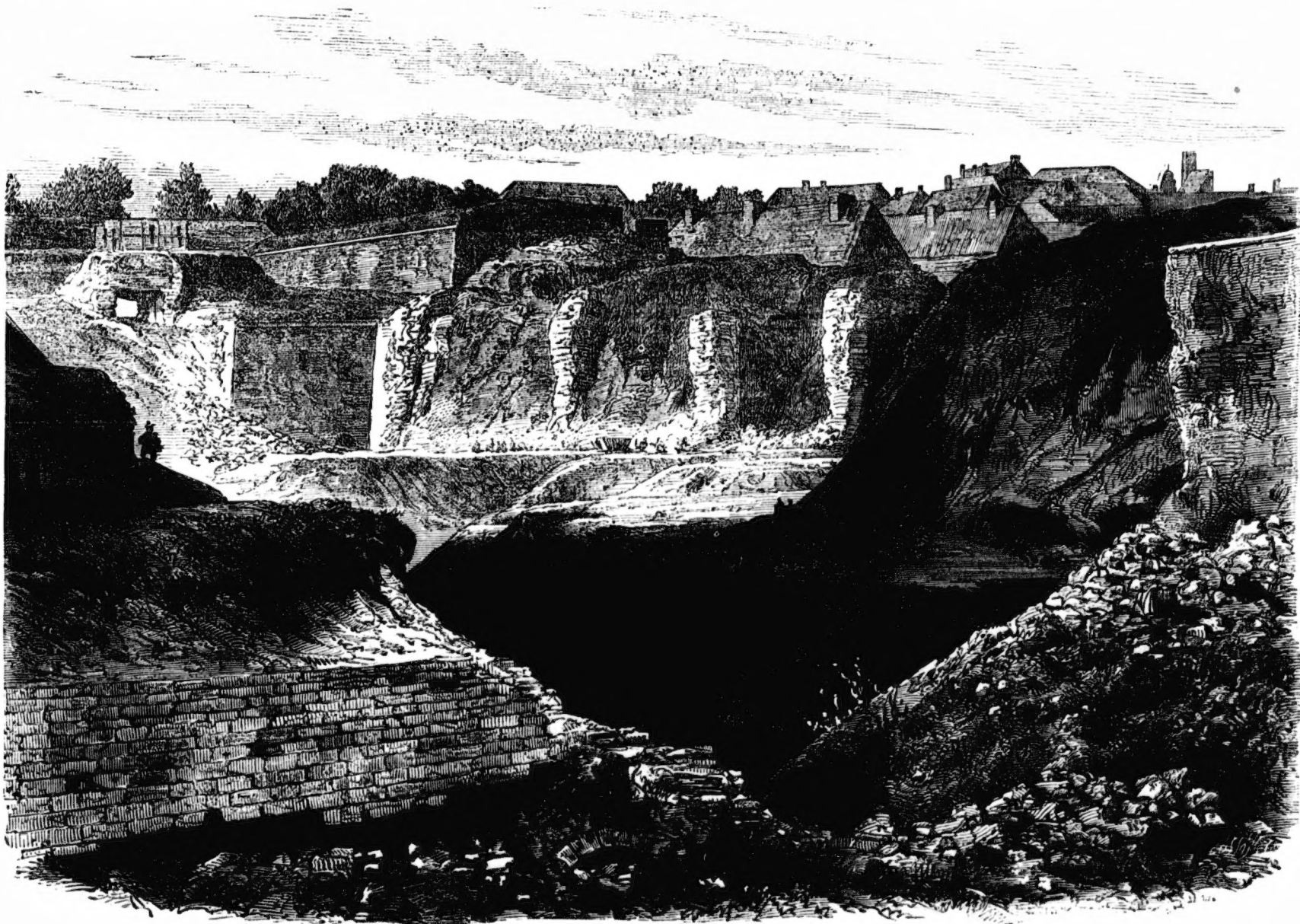
popular with our northern neighbours. The youthful bride (for Princess Louise is only seventeen) has won universal admiration for her simple, ingenuous beauty and her gracious kindness of manner.

PROGRESS OF THE DEMOLITION OF LUXEMBOURG.

AT the time the dismantlement of the vast fortifications of Luxembourg was determined on by the Franco-German agreement in 1867, we published an account of the strongholds of that then important barrier on the boundary of the two territories, and those of our readers who refer to that description will remember what an intricate system of works and outworks defended the town and threatened the whole neighbouring district.

Our Engraving this week, which shows the present condition of the place, will illustrate the work of destruction as it is at pre-

sent going on, and convey some notion of the extent of those enormous buildings, scarcely seen in all their importance till they are about to disappear, after taking nine centuries to accumulate. It was only on the south-west and the north-west sides of the town that these extensive military works were piled, and it is here that the demolition has been carried on since the departure of the Prussian garrison. By the levelling of these gigantic structures, the town, hitherto of little importance in itself, will be enormously increased as to its landed possessions. Slowly as the operations go on, as may be seen by our Engraving, the completion of this levelling process is being surely effected in accordance with the convention made in London, of which this concession formed a clause. What is more remarkable is that the abolition of this famous fortress appears to excite very little attention and scarcely arouses any national sentiments in the people who are likely so largely to profit by being relieved from its threatening shadow.



DEMOLITION OF THE FORTIFICATIONS OF LUXEMBOURG.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 369.

MR. HERON.

On Thursday, March 3, Mr. Heron, the new member for Tipperary, appeared in the House of Commons, to take the oath and his seat. It will be remembered that Disraeli, in his speech upon the O'Donovan Rossa affair, described the Fenian convict as the real, and Mr. Heron as the "sham article;" and this may be a true description of Mr. Heron. There are, as we know, many real Fenians in Ireland; and, doubtless, there are some counterfeits. But there are in Ireland, also, not a few real Fenians who try to conceal their Fenianism. Indeed, an Irish lady once told us that at heart all real Irishmen—that is, all Irishmen of the old race—are Fenians; and, from what we have heard of Mr. Heron, and his doings and sayings in Tipperary county, we should deem it quite as likely that he is a real Fenian under a veil, as that he, for a purpose, counterfeits Fenianism. But, however this may be, we are bound to say, that in appearance, Mr. Heron is simply an Irish gentleman. He is of middle height, rather spare in figure, of dark complexion; and his one speciality is that, instead of cutting his dark hair behind close, as the fashion is now, he lets it grow thick and bushy. Mr. Heron's appearance at the bar attracted little attention. Often when a member has been elected under special or peculiar circumstances, his party greet him as he goes up to the table with a cheer; but Mr. Heron, as he marched to the table, received no such greeting. There is always a good deal of talk going on just after the House is made. Members, too, are moving about in every direction: some coming in; others, having secured their seats for the night, rushing out to the writing-tables in the division lobby, or to speak to their friends outside. In short, the House is generally at this time in a state of bluster and confusion. It was so on this occasion, and it is probable that not one man in ten knew who it was that was going up to the table to be sworn. When Mr. Heron had taken the oath and duly shaken hands with Mr. Speaker, as all new members do, he dropped into a seat below the gangway on the Government side of the House, and at once was lost to view, and passed out of our thoughts. Our readers may fancy that, though Mr. Heron entered the House in this quiet way, unnoticed and almost unknown, he will soon make himself known, and heard, and noticed. They may think that, as he was so wild and extravagant in Tipperary, he will be somewhat wild and extravagant here. But we venture to say that he will be nothing of the sort. He will speak, no doubt; probably before this week shall have passed away we may see him on his legs, speaking on the Irish Land Bill. Almost all genuine Milesians are talkers; and it is too much to expect that Mr. Heron will not upon such a question address the House; but he will indulge in no extravagance, we may be sure. Very few members ever do indulge in extravagance, either of thought, language, or action, here; and no man ever does it more than once. However wildly a man may have been accustomed to talk elsewhere, and however resolutely he may have worked himself up to give the House, in his own way, a bit of his mind, before he has been many hours here he finds his ardour, which outside flared so high, perceptibly damping down, and his valour, like that of Bob Acres, oozing away. There is something in the very atmosphere of the House of Commons which is fatal to all extravagance; and this the new member, without actual experiment, very soon comes to feel. We have, though, more than once seen the experiment tried; but the experimenter never repeated it.

AN IRISH ODDITY.

What an odd fish is that Mr. O'Reilly Dease, whom the county of Louth sent us in December, 1868, as the colleague of Mr. Chichester Fortescue! Firstly, Mr. Dease is odd in appearance. He is of the middle height, stoutly and clumsily built, whilst his dark, unkempt hair and beard so encroach upon his face that at a distance the features of it are scarcely discernible; but when you come near him you perceive, lighted up by a pair of twinkling eyes, a very droll face indeed. His manners, too, are not as other men's. Before the House gets into Session, you see Mr. Dease now wandering amongst the crowd in the most aimless manner, and anon stretching himself upon a bench, as if, amidst all the buzz and stir, he were courting sleep. His speech, too (we mean here specially his colloquial speech), is strange. To one not accustomed to it, it is hardly intelligible. The accent is not specially Irish, though. Mr. Dease is much given to Continental travel, and it would seem that he has jumbled several foreign accents. Lastly, Mr. Dease has, as those eyes indicate, a due share of humour of the Hibernian sort. Here is a specimen. When Mr. Gladstone had introduced his Irish land bill Mr. Dease was pestered with letters on this subject from his constituents, and thus he answered them—"Please not to talk to the man at the wheel." It will have been noticed, from a speech which the honourable member made last week, that he has a grievance, but from the report of that speech our readers could not get a clear notion of this grievance. The reason why is this—viz., what with the honourable member's curious accent, and the passionate manner in which he spoke, his story did not get in complete form to the Reporters' Gallery. We will, then, shortly tell the story. Mr. Dease alleges that in 1868 a bargain was made between Viscount Gormanston, of the Peerage of Ireland, on the one part, and the Conservative Government on the other part, to this effect—to wit, that the said Viscount Gormanston should send his son, Mr. Jenico Preston, to contest the county of Louth, and that in consideration thereof the said Conservative Government undertook to make the said Viscount Gormanston an English peer. Whether this story is true we know not. Two things only are certain. First, that Mr. Jenico Preston was sent to Louth; second, Viscount Gormanston was, on Dec. 9, 1868, the day before Parliament met, called to the Upper House as Baron Gormanston in the Peerage of England, and he was the only Roman Catholic peer who opposed the Church Bill. We have said that Mr. Dease spoke with passion; but this is hardly strong enough. He raved, he stamped, he threw his arms about in the most wonderful manner; now lifting them upright, anon projecting them horizontally, then folding them tightly across his breast as if he fancied he was giving his foe a bear's hug. In short, it was the strangest, wildest exhibition we ever saw; and all the stranger to us who were at a distance, because we could not, for the life of us, make out what he was talking about. Of course, the House roared with laughter. It was, indeed, for the time, as wild as Mr. Dease.

A DULL DEBATE.

Now for the first night of the great debate. Great debate! No! That is a misnomer. Let us rather call it a little, dull, prosy debate on a great subject, for such, on the whole, it has been up to the time at which we are writing. Probably the duller, most prosy, most tiresome debate upon a great subject that ever wearied the House. That it did weary the House was obvious. When the debate began there were not less than 550 members present, and all the galleries were full; but long before dinner-time the members, wearied out by the lengthy, monotonous prosings of Sir F. Heygate, Sir Harvey Bruce, and others of the same stamp, had wandered away, and at half-past six there were conspicuous gaps of empty spaces on both sides of the House. Nor did the strangers stick to their seats as strangers are wont to do on important nights. Under the gallery there sat, in their native costume, four Hindoos. These Sir Charles Trevelyan brought; but, although they understood the language, they did not stop very long. Up stairs Prince Christian listened for a time, as did two or three foreign Ambassadors and a few English peers; but, one by one, they early glided away. In short, the debate, at no time exciting, was for three or four hours intolerable. Nevertheless, two gentlemen spoke on this first night whom we must notice.

THE HON. CAPTAIN WHITE.

The Hon. Captain White shall have our attention first. This gentleman is the fifth son of Lord Annaly, whom, as Colonel White, in the House of Commons, we used to know so well. It is said that his Lordship has spent more money in election fights than any man living; and that for this reason, and for his general loyalty

to the Liberal party, Lord Palmerston, in 1862, advised her Majesty to give the gallant Colonel an English peerage. We used to have Colonel Luke White, the eldest son of the noble Lord, in the House; but not all the father's pluck and money could keep him there. Captain White entered the House in 1868, as member for Tipperary; but he did not speak last Session. This speech, then, on the Land Bill, was his maiden speech; and it was a very successful maiden speech. We have very rarely heard one more successful. Captain White is short in stature, in appearance youthful; and when we saw him rise and coolly fold his arms across his breast, and marked the confidence of his tone and manner, we feared for him; for it seemed scarcely likely that so young a man, all unpractised as he was as a speaker in the House, could maintain that lofty pitch. Young men, when they first essay to speak in the House, generally begin apologetically and almost with bated breath and whispered humbleness. Often there is somewhat too much of this. But the gallant Captain scarcely apologised. He did say that he felt hesitation, but he spoke in such an easy, manly tone that it was evident that really he felt none. "But will he be able to keep up to this level?" we asked ourselves. He has some distance to go, and, though he shows such strength of wing at starting, he may have overrated his power and soon fail, all the more ignominiously because he began so bravely. But after hearing him for some minutes all fear vanished from our minds. He had evidently, as we saw, got this speech well into his mind, and felt that in clear, simple, English style he could deliver it; and so he did deliver it, with only one little slip. Towards the end of his speech he expressed his regret that he was obliged to separate himself from a party which he had unanimously supported. This was a lapsus lingue. But he corrected it in a moment, without the least sign of confusion, by the substitution of uniformly for unanimously. "But," our readers will ask, "what was there in the speech?" The question is pertinent, and ought to be answered. In truth, then, there was not much in this speech. Captain White deserves praise for his manner and for his language, but little for his matter. And now, before we leave the gallant Captain, we must notice an anomaly which, whilst he was speaking, struck us forcibly. Lord Annaly, the gallant Captain's father, is one of the largest landed proprietors in Ireland. His son told us that all that his family hath is in land; and yet the gallant Captain advocated something very like fixity of tenure. How are we to explain this anomaly? Well, first, let us remember that Captain White is not the eldest son of his father, but the fifth; and it is but natural that the fifth son should have very different views upon the great land question to those held by the eldest. Some say that this speech was made for the Tipperary men rather than for the House of Commons, the gallant Captain well knowing that if he were to give his approval to this bill he would certainly lose his seat at the next election. The cynics who talk thus would have us believe that the hon. member for Tipperary advanced these opinions that he may keep his seat; we, however, more charitably hold that he got his seat because it was known that he held these opinions.

WE ARE A-NODDING.

The debate on Monday dragged its slow length along until midnight, when it was adjourned, and the wearied members rose like a flock of birds and sped away to rest. Many of them, though, had already foreshortened their night's sleep. Dr. Ball closed the discussion. He is, men say, a very able lawyer; he speaks in somewhat stately style, and with sonorous, and at times stentorian, tones. But, all this notwithstanding, we noticed whilst he was speaking at least a dozen members fast asleep; or it might be, perhaps, only dozing, mingling the scene before them and the sounding rhetoric of the learned Doctor in their fantastic dreams. Powerful must be the torpid spell which bound the House when the gifted Doctor, discoursing upon such an interesting subject, could not keep the members awake. On Tuesday night the House was a trifle more lively. Mr. Maguire renewed the discussion, in an energetic, eloquent speech; and though he did not evoke much cheering, the House listened with attention; and if there was no enthusiasm there was life. But after him came ponderous Mr. Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer Hunt, and straightway dullness resumed its sway. When he was spent, the Attorney-General, Sir Robert Collier, rose. Of his speech we did not hear much; but a competent friend told us that the learned gentleman spoke surprisingly well, and with unprecedented eloquence and animation. He, as our readers will remember, was, just before the House met, shot in the leg, and, in consequence, had to seclude himself for a month. Perhaps it was to this seclusion the House owed this unusually-excellent speech. Our competent friend thought so, for, as he came out of the House, he expressed an opinion that it would be well if the learned Attorney-General were to be shot in the leg at the beginning of every Session.

MR. DOWSE WAKES US UP.

Leaping over the drowsy dinner hours, which Dulness always claims as her own, we find Mr. Serjeant Dowse, the new Irish Attorney-General, upon his legs. And now, avant Dulness! for when the lively Serjeant rises thou knowest that this is no place for thee! "A merry heart," says Solomon, "doeth good as a medicine." True, and so does a merry face to all that look thereon. A glance at Mr. Serjeant Dowse's face when it is radiant with fun would dispel a fit of the blues. We had thought it probable, now that Mr. Dowse is in office, he would tone down his mirth and speak with official gravity; and perhaps it may have occurred to him to do so. But, as the Latin proverb says, if you expel Nature with force, she will promptly resume her sway. As soon as Mr. Dowse began to speak the members shook off all drowsiness, as a bird shakes off water from its wings; and for an hour or more the House was carried along, as by an irresistible torrent, now listening intently to his rapid logic, anon shouting and laughing at a parenthetic feat of humour, or cheering his telling hits. This, in short, was really a lively hour; indeed, up to that time, the only lively hour of the debate.

LIFE-BOAT SERVICES.—The life-boat Palmerston, belonging to the National Life-Boat Institution, and stationed at Cullercoats, Northumberland, went out last week to the assistance of the fishing-boats of that place, which had to return to shore on account of a gale of wind which suddenly sprang up. All the boats were attended safely over the bar by the life-boat. The Ramsgate life-boat and steam-tug Aid, and the Samuel Morrison Collins life-boat, at Broadstairs, were also taken to the assistance of the brig Volunteer, of Shoreham, which had gone ashore on the Goodwin Sands. She was got off, and taken into Ramsgate harbour.

EMPLOYERS AND WORKPEOPLE.—On Tuesday evening, at a meeting of the Association for the Promotion of Social Science, held in the room of the Society of Arts—Mr. George Godwin, F.S.A., in the chair—Mr. F. Hill read a paper on "The Identity of the Interests of Employers and Workpeople." Many people, he said, would be disposed to say that there was no community of interests between them; but this was an error, like those which obtained long since, when it was supposed that the English and the Scotch were natural enemies, and that the interests of England and of her colonies were in opposition to each other. The interests of employers and employed were supposed by many to be opposed on the questions of piece-work, the regulation of the number of apprentices, female labour, the quality of work, the mode of paying wages, and, lastly, on the great question of the rate of wages and the hours of labour. As to the first four of these, he argued that it was the interest of the workman equally with the employer that the work should be done in the best manner and at the cheapest rate, so as to stimulate demand. As to the mode of paying wages, he thought the Act against the truck system was an interference with free trade. The plan of paying in kind had worked well where he had seen it in operation in the iron districts and in Scotland. With regard to the rate of wages and the hours of labour, both masters and men had to take care that low wages did not send away the men nor high wages destroy the business. He was much in favour of giving the workman the incentive of a share in the profits. A lengthened discussion ensued, in the course of which trades unions and strikes were alternately lauded and abused, and all the speakers objected to the truck system on several grounds. The chairman, after alluding to some of the evil effects of the present action of trades unions, said he hoped the Government and certain public bodies would do a service to the building trade, which was now in a most distressed state, by setting on foot buildings for which sites had been procured and preparations made. Mr. Hill replied; and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.
HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.

Mr. D. DALRYMPLE moved a resolution asserting the desirableness of legislating for the proper reception, detention, and management of habitual drunkards. Habitual drunkenness he regarded as a disease which, taking hold of the vital powers and getting possession of the nervous centre, was capable of being transmitted from parent to child; and he maintained that provision ought to be made by the State for the victims of intemperance in the same manner as was done for the insane, the deaf, the dumb, and the blind. For this purpose he would establish reformatories for the reception of such persons, and their detention until they had obtained the control and mastery of their passion for drink. He would enable a person afflicted to place himself in those institutions, or the persons who were nearest and dearest to him to place him there, and his property should be vested in the hands of trustees during his detention. With regard to the numerous class of drunkards comprised in the pauper class, or the quasi and proximate drunkards who were alternately reeling between the gutter, the ginshop, and the gaol, he held that, from a political as well as social point of view, society had a right to step in and interfere with their freedom so long as the undue exercise of that freedom were prejudicial to the comfort of their fellow-citizens. For this class he proposed to create reformatory wards in gaols and workhouses, or separate institutions of the sort, to which they should be committed, and there detained until discharged on a medical certificate. The reformatory he would make self-supporting as far as possible, and when the earnings of the inmates exceeded the cost of their maintenance the balance should be handed over to them on their discharge.

The motion was seconded by Mr. PEASE and supported by Mr. MILLER. The HOME SECRETARY met it with the objection that enormous difficulties stood in the way of carrying out the ideas of Mr. Dalrymple, and that, if, instead of a resolution, the question had been submitted in the form of a bill those difficulties would have been still more apparent. On the whole, he regarded the proposal as rather the dream of a benevolent mind than a proposition of a practical character, calculated to attain the object which the mover had before him.

After a few observations from Mr. DOWNING, who mentioned that the reformatory for drunkards at Boston had produced the most beneficial results, Mr. Dalrymple withdrew his motion, at the same time intimating that he should take another opportunity of submitting a bill on the subject.

THE MALT TAX.

Colonel BARTHELOT brought under the notice of the House the report of the Select Committee on the malt tax, which sat in the years 1867 and 1868, and moved a resolution setting forth the expediency of substituting for the present duties on malt a reduced charge on beer, and of charging on public brewers a license imposed in the same way as the commuted hop duty, and on private brewers a license to brew.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he concurred in the general principle that a tax on a commodity in the earlier stages of its production was wasted, and that taxing the raw or half-raw material had a tendency to cramp enterprise and energy; and admitted that the proposal of Colonel Barttelot had the merit of novelty; but his objection to it was that it took no account of the quality of the beer, and taxed the lowest and highest quality at the same rate. He undertook, however, most carefully to consider the matter; and when he came to make his financial statement he would either accede to it or give very good reasons for declining. He hoped, therefore, the hon. member would not deem it necessary to press the subject further now.

Colonel BARTHELOT, accepting the promise of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, consented to the withdrawal of his motion.

SUPPLY—NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates.

MONDAY, MARCH 7.
HOUSE OF LORDS.
NEW ZEALAND.

Lord CARNARVON inquired whether the Government would consent, upon any conditions, to delay the departure from New Zealand of the 18th Regiment of Foot, now under orders to sail from the colony. With regard to the colonial policy of Ministers, he was of opinion that, instead of tending to promote peace, it would produce fresh complications. It was now asked that the 18th Regiment of Foot, which was only 600 strong, should be allowed to remain in the colony for a limited time; and he believed that no harm could arise from such a concession, whilst a refusal might create serious risk and greatly irritate the colonists.

Lord GRANVILLE said, considering that New Zealand was in a better condition now than it had been for the last ten years, the Government felt that it would be unwise to detain the 18th Regiment any longer in the colony. He admitted that our relations with the colony were not of the most satisfactory nature; but he promised that no exertions on his part should be spared to re-establish them upon a sound basis; and there would be no objection on the part of the Government to allow a few young officers and some of the steadiest of the troops to remain in New Zealand, so as to form the nucleus of a new force for the service of the Colonial Government.

Lord Grey and Lord Lyttelton continued the discussion, after which the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IRELAND—THE LAND BILL.

Lord J. MANNERS having asked when the Premier would make a statement as to Ministerial intentions for the better security of life in Ireland, Mr. GLADSTONE replied that Government would announce their views with regard to the condition of Ireland immediately after the debate on the second reading of the Land Bill, which the right hon. gentleman subsequently moved.

Mr. BRYAN then rose, amid a faint cheer from Irish members on the Radical benches, and commenced the debate with a speech against the bill, and concluded by moving, as an amendment, that the bill be read the second time that day six months. Captain WHITE seconded the amendment, and a long debate ensued, in the course of which

Mr. C. FORTESCUE reviewed at great length the history of the various attempts that had been made from time to time to legislate on the relations between landlords and tenants in Ireland, and insisted that the present was by far the most simple measure that had ever been submitted to Parliament for the purpose. The strength of the bill was that it was based upon the customs, usages, and practices of the best-managed Irish estates. With regard to the suggestion that the Ulster system should be extended to the whole of Ireland, he held that it would be impossible to apply it slavishly to all portions of the country. The bill had been prepared after the most careful consideration of all the circumstances of the country, and his own opinion was that it would work well, and that it would swell the ranks of law and order in Ireland. As an Irish landlord himself, he was quite prepared to accept all the restrictions it would impose. He hoped the landlords of Ireland would avail themselves of the opportunity now offered to effect a permanent settlement of a long and vexed question, for he was persuaded that it would, if passed into law, put an end to an intolerable state of uncertainty, and enable Parliament to sign and seal a long lease of prosperity and concord with the people of Ireland.

Dr. BALL commented upon the bill in its political, economical, and legal aspects, urging that its effect would be extremely small, while it would probably tend to disturb those amicable relations between landlord and tenant which now happily prevailed in many portions of the country. He was not opposed to large and liberal legislation to meet an exceptional state of circumstances, but he warned the House against legislating for posterity in a moment of panic. The great evil under which Ireland laboured was absenteeism, and he failed to see in the present measure any remedy for that social cancer.

On the motion of Mr. Maguire, the debate was adjourned.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of HARROWBY moved the second reading of the Owens College Extension Bill, which provides for the incorporation of the present Owens College at Manchester with the existing trustees, and gives increased powers to the trustees. An objection of Lord Redesdale, that the subject was one for private legislation, led to a discussion, followed by a division resulting in the bill being read a second time by 33 to 6.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

Mr. MAGUIRE resumed the debate, and dilated at some length upon the evils produced by the state of the laws relating to land tenure in Ireland, and announced his intention to vote for the bill, although he saw in it many defects.

Mr. W. HUNT expressed the readiness of the Conservative party to assist Ministers in improving the bill and making it generally satisfactory. True, it had been presented to the House under some disadvantage, inasmuch as extravagant expectations and demands had been excited by agitators, and the use of language by persons in authority which, uttered in one sense, had been interpreted in another. On the other hand, the measure came before them under favourable circumstances; for he never remembered a measure introduced by the party to whom he was opposed that had been discussed with less political rancour. The right hon. gentleman then reviewed and criticised the chief points of the bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, noticing the objections urged against the measure from each side of the House, remarked that they pretty well answered one another, and that the Ministerial proposals were a happy medium between two extremes. All that was possible to give security, as distinguished from fixity of tenure, had been done by the Government in

the bill, and if they had gone further the effect would have been to alter the relations between landlord and tenant. Customs could not be defined, and they were not defined in this country, but had to be proved by witnesses as applicable to particular estates. The object of the bill was to accept existing facts, and to interfere as little as might be with existing relations.

Mr. G. H. MOORE believed that the measure was founded on a just principle, and originated in a conscientious desire to do justice and to meet the just demands of public opinion in Ireland. On that account he gave it a frank and outspoken support, and promised, whatever amendments he proposed in Committee, that they should be in strict accordance with its principles.

Mr. SAMUELSON pronounced the bill an admirable one; and Mr. C. S. READ avowed that it was alike his duty and desire to support its second reading. The measure, with certain changes in Committee, was calculated to do a great deal of good and dispense justice to all parties, ample and full.

The O'DONOGHUE, who proclaimed himself a member of the extreme tenant-right party, was satisfied that the bill would realise all that was anticipated from it, and at the same time convince trading patriots that their occupation was gone.

Mr. HENLEY said if this bill became law every landed proprietor would feel that he was therefor placed in a different position in relation to his tenant. He would then cast about to see how he might recoup himself for this altered position, and the result would be that he would either give a thirty years' lease and have done with it or raise the rent of his tenant. Every step under the bill would lead to litigation; the ejectment clauses were not founded in justice, and the operation of the measure in its present shape would result in the utter extinction of the small holders.

The debate was continued by the Solicitor-General for Ireland, and again adjourned, on the motion of Colonel Wilson-Patten.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House was engaged during nearly the whole of the sitting in the discussion of the Church Rates (Scotland) Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Mr. M. Laren, who explained that its object was to render the payment of church rates by the heritors of the parish optional instead of compulsory, as at present, and thus assimilate the law of Scotland to that of England.

The bill was met by Mr. Gordon and Lord Gailies with a motion for its rejection, and considerable discussion ensued, in which Mr. Carnegie, Lord J. Manners, Mr. Graham, Sir E. Colebrooke, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Maxwell, Sir R. Anstruther, Mr. Miller, Mr. Craufurd, and the Lord Advocate took part. Ultimately a division was called, and the second reading defeated by 225 against 108. The bill was therefore lost.

The Coroners Bill and the Mortgages Bill were read the second time; Mr. Anderson brought in a bill to abolish wages arrestment in Scotland; and Mr. Shaw-Lefevre nominated the Select Committee on the Compulsory Pilotage Abolition Bill.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Churchwardens Eligibility Bill was read the second time.

NATURALISATION BILL.

The House went into Committee on this bill.

On clause 2 being proposed, Lord WESTBURY moved, as an amendment, that the power given to aliens to hold property in this country should be suspended during times of war between this country and the nations to which they belonged; and that aliens might be permitted to become owners of British ships. After some discussion, the former portion of the amendment was agreed to and the latter withdrawn.

On clause 5 being moved, Lord PENZANCE urged the necessity for getting rid of the double nationality which now in many cases existed. The LORD CHANCELLOR explained that the bill would enable any foreigner to take up his nationality in this country, and thereupon his nationality in that from which he came would cease. If any Englishman got naturalised abroad he would cease to be a subject of this country; and if he desired to be naturalised here again, he would come as a foreign subject. The time had arrived when they should not require the consent of a foreign country before one of its subjects could adopt English nationality, for some countries would not allow it—such, for instance, as Prussia, and other parts of Germany and Russia, with regard to the Poles. Lord WESTBURY strongly objected to any provision that would enable the rebel subjects of another country to become subjects of this. He proposed that words should be inserted suspending the naturalisation of foreign subjects during the continuance of hostilities between the two countries. The LORD CHANCELLOR thought it had better be left to the discretion of the Secretary of State. Clause 5 was then agreed to.

In clause 6 the term of residence necessary before naturalisation was reduced from five to three years.

The other clauses were then agreed to, with some slight modification, and the bill passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. B. Osborne took the oath and his seat for the city of Waterford, in the room of Sir H. W. Barron, deceased on petition. The hon. member, who was introduced by Mr. W. H. Gregory and Mr. Bagwell, was welcomed by several rounds of cheers from both sides of the House.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

Colonel WILSON-PATTEN, in resuming the adjourned debate, expressed his intention of supporting the second reading of the bill. He believed that her Majesty's Government would not have proposed many of its clauses except under very extraordinary circumstances. He believed, if the provisions of the bill were enforced with justice, they would be gladly met by the people.

Mr. HORNMAN looked upon the bill as being less an amendment of the law than the basis of a policy. The object of the present bill was to deal with established facts, and wherever it found a custom it proposed to give that custom the force of law. The Ulster tenant right was good in itself as applied to Ulster, but it might not be so good for other parts of Ireland, and therefore it was proper not to extend that right to all parts of Ireland. It had been urged that the bill interfered with the rights of landlords; but what were those rights? If they exercised them, it was at the peril of their life. If they called on the law, they found two laws in existence—the statute law, which was not obeyed; and the secret-law, which was obeyed, and which had murder for its basis. It was not to the landlords that the condition of Ireland could be attributed. There were good and bad landlords; but good landlords were the rule, and bad the exception. With respect to tenants, all they wanted was security of tenure and a certain home to enlist them on the side of law and in antagonism to Fenianism. The bill before the House proposed to settle the differences between both classes. Certainly the bill was more favourable to tenants than any measure that had been previously devised; and it would be found to add to the value of the estates of landlords and to give content to the tenants. He did not condemn the Government for not taking stringent measures to deal with Irish crime, as it would, perhaps, have imperilled their great bill; but after the passing of the bill a new responsibility would be created to repress sedition, not by striking at the skulking miscreant, but by striking boldly, and striking hard, those in high places who inflamed the passions of the lower orders, and who thereby were the real inciters to crime. The bill was a sincere and honest bill; and he hoped, when made just to all interests in Committee, that, with the bill of 1869, it would heal the miseries of Ireland and establish the character of England with regard to its Irish policy.

Mr. A. PELL considered that the bill, though good in parts, was not as a whole entitled to unconditional approval.

Sir R. PALMER approved of the bill as a just and wise measure. He could not agree with those who argued that it interfered with the rights of property; nor did he see that it favoured tenants at the expense of landlords. There were some small defects in some of the clauses, which, however, could be amended in Committee. He did not expect that this bill would bring an end at once to outrage in Ireland.

Lord BURKE was understood to say that the bill would not be satisfactory to the country.

Lord ST. LAWRENCE supported the bill, but thought that it would tend to increased litigation.

Mr. T. CONNOLLY supported the bill.

Sir J. GRAY protested against the bill as one not calculated to give the people of Ireland that satisfaction which it had promised them. What the people of Ireland wanted, and what they would never be satisfied without, was the abolition of notices to quit and evictions, except for non-payment of rent, sub-letting, and wasting of land. He called on Irish members not to accept any bill that had not the full approval of the Irish people.

Mr. MONSELL considered that everything had been done to misrepresent the bill, and to prevent the people of Ireland from appreciating the greatest boon that could possibly be conferred upon that country.

Mr. HARDY would not oppose the second reading of the bill, but there were many points upon which the measure would require consideration.

On the motion of Mr. GREGORY, the debate was adjourned until the next day (Friday).

UNAVAILING REGRETS.—At a very successful séance in Cincinnati the other night, a man burst into tears when the medium described very accurately a tall, blue-eyed spirit standing by him with light side whiskers and his hair parted in the middle. "Do you know him?" inquired a man at his side, in a sympathetic whisper. "Know him? I guess I do," replied the unhappy man, wiping his eyes; "he was engaged to my wife. If he hadn't died he would have been her husband instead of me." "Oh, George, George!" he muttered in a voice choked with emotion, "why, why did you peg out?"—*American Paper.*

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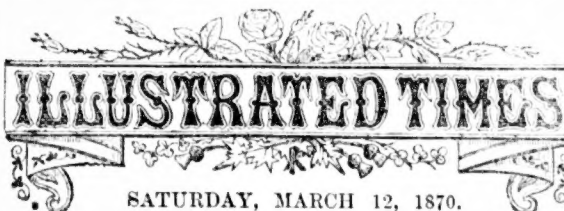
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SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1870.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

It has been said, and no doubt, truly that juries are influenced rather by what is in the air than by what is in their heads. Everybody who has watched coroners' inquests, and the verdicts in cases of breach of promise, and the like, must have been convinced of this, even if he doubted before.

The first thoroughly public indication of an approaching change in law and custom is almost invariably found in a disposition to stretch the usual interpretation of either or both to its very utmost. In courts of justice this is always exhibited in a merging of "law" and "equity." Accordingly, as time goes on, and what is called public opinion strengthens and consolidates, we find we have more and more of what is known as judge-made law, or jury-made law; that is to say, effective law, which re-interprets the statute or common law, and which, in practice, sets up a standard of increased stringency. In our own day we may discern the tendency in question in the law of debt, of libel, of marriage, breach of promise, and all related subjects, and, lastly, in the law of suicide.

Nobody doubts the justice or equity of the decision under which Mr. Kelly, after the sentence of judicial separation between him and his wife, has been ordered to pay her £164 a year as alimony; at least, nobody doubts that the decision is just, as far as it goes, though some of our foremost men and women doubt the expediency of maintaining the distinction between divorce and judicial separation in such cases. But, still, the law which has convicted this clergyman, might fairly be called judge-made law. In "Evans v. Evans" (2 No. Ca. 475) it was held that it was "not cruelty in a husband to refuse his wife a monthly nurse in her confinement; nor to refuse to supply her with regular meals; nor to confine her in a washhouse; nor to prevent her from coming into any room but her bed room, except for meals." It has even been held doubtful, "Otway v. Otway" (2 Phill. 97), whether for the husband violently to follow the wife from room to room, calling her by the most opprobrious names, and accusing her of crimes that cannot even be suggested in this column, is technical cruelty. On the other hand, we are informed, with rather startling irony ("Hulme v. Hulme," 2 Add., 27), that "Where the husband threatened to cut his wife's arm off and beat her brains out with it, and on another occasion, within a few days of her confinement, to pull her out of bed and kick her up and down the room," and once seized a red-hot poker and brandished it and threatened to run her through with it, and often attempted to strike her, though the parties had been separated three years, and the husband had been bound over to keep the peace towards her, the Court held that the facts were not of a nature on which to found a case of legal cruelty. On the whole, we may perceive that the tendency of recent interpretations of the law, as given from the bench, is to place husband and wife in the position of gentleman and gentlewoman, or, if the reader prefers it, of man and woman, independent of each other, except as far as the personal choice of either or both is concerned.

In what is known as the "tragedy at Old Ford" the verdict of the Coroner's jury was decidedly curious. The facts are known to everyone, and so is the old law of suicide; but there is something really novel about the following decision:—

"That the deceased woman died from inhaling fumes of charcoal, and that, at the time she did so, she had been deprived, by poverty and other causes, of the right use of her senses, and that she killed herself while in a state of temporary insanity; and, in the case of her husband, that the deceased had deprived himself of life by means of inhaling charcoal fumes, and that, at the time he did so, he was in a state of temporary insanity, brought on by thinking that the fact of his being a ticket-of-leave man had been discovered."

While Judges, and experts, and Home Secretaries are disputing as to what constitutes insanity, a simple coroner's jury have decided—and, in our opinion, wisely—that people cannot have "the right use of their senses" if they kill themselves, as Banks and his wife did. It is an immense advance upon the old-fashioned, unscrupulous verdict of "Felo-de-se," with all its attendant abominations.

In some cases of another kind juries have not shown themselves so wise. To punish a foolish breach of promise of marriage in a very young man by a heavy fine, or to treat an act of mere license—under distinct, though delicately-guarded, temptation from the person in whose name damages are sought—as if it were a treacherous invasion of a pure and honest home, can do good to no one. Instances answering to this description have been rather frequent of late years; but here, as elsewhere, juries are influenced by what is in the air rather than by what is in their heads, and we may hope that the final outcome of this also may be good.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, it is stated, has been pleased to signify her wish to open the new building of the University of London at Burlington House in person. The event will take place, in all probability, in the month of May.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES do not, it seems, intend to visit Ireland at Easter, as was reported. The whole affair was a mistake.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE has consented to preside at the festival dinner of King's College Hospital, to be held at Willis's Rooms, on Wednesday, May 18.

MR. W. H. SMITH, M.P., will take the chair at the annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, which is to be held at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, on Saturday, May 14.

THE HEALTH OF THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT is gradually improving, and he hopes in a week or ten days to go to Llandudno.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Mr. W. Hart Dyke, M.P. for Mid Kent, eldest son of Sir Percival Hart Dyke, Bart., and Lady Emily Montagu, eldest daughter of the Earl of Sandwich, Lord Lieutenant of Huntingdonshire.

MR. KERAN, Q.C., of the Irish Bar, has been appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Madras. The salary is £4000 per annum.

THE HON. ROBERT O'BRIEN, brother to Lord Inchiquin and to the late Mr. William Smith O'Brien, dropped dead on Sunday evening, at his own house, while dressing for dinner. The cause of death was heart disease.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS and Mr. Arthur Helps had the honour of an interview with her Majesty, on Wednesday, at Buckingham Palace.

MR. HENRY FUSSELL, signal inspector of the Great Northern Railway, was killed while crossing the line near the opening of the Copenhagen tunnel, on Saturday afternoon last.

THE WIFE OF MR. WITHECOMBE, farmer, Devon, has given birth to three children.

THE REV. JOHN BURNETT, LL.D., Vicar of Bradford, died, on Tuesday, at Coniston. He was appointed Vicar in 1847. The living is of the nominal value of £800, and is in the gift of Simcoe's trustees.

THE GREAT RIFLE CONGRESS AT WIMBLEDON for this year will commence on Monday, July 11.

ADMIRAL THE HON. SIR FREDERICK GREY, G.C.B., and Rear-Admiral Sir John Hay, not having been adloft for ten years, will shortly be placed on the retired list; and will, in consequence, be debarred from joining any future Board of Admiralty, except in the capacity of Secretary or Civil Lord.

M. HAUSSMANN, not content with the glory which will ever attach to his name as the creator of Imperial Paris, is contemplating building a magnificent city in Italy, which is to be called Nuova Roma.

THE CITY OF BOSTON STEAM-SHIP, from New York for Liverpool, being now considerably overdue, great alarm is felt as to her safety. She is understood to have a large number of passengers on board.

THE MAN CAMKIN, who is charged with killing his stepfather, at the gasworks at Kensal-green, was arrested on Sunday, and has been committed for trial for manslaughter.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE JOURNALS AT NAPLES and a considerable number of public writers have just founded a tribunal of honour, to put an end to the duels which are becoming every day more frequent in that city.

A STATEMENT showing the amount of loss sustained by the Exchequer from the sale and purchase, &c., of securities in connection with the savings banks since the reduction of the rate of interest to 3 1/2 per cent, in the year 1844, states the deficiency to be £3,270,756.

THE DEATH IS ANNOUNCED OF M. DUMON, at one time French Minister of Finance. Latterly M. Dumon was president of the council of administration of the Paris, Lyons, and Mediterranean Railway—the largest of the French railways.

A NEW DOCK, which has been constructed in the Isle of Dogs, and which belongs to the East and West India Dock Company, was opened on Saturday. It has a water area of thirty-three acres, and will admit the largest ships.

WHILE THE HON. MRS. LOYD-LINDSAY was hunting in the neighbourhood of Overstone Hall, Northamptonshire, a few days ago, her horse slipped and fell on its near side. Mrs. Lindsay sustained a compound fracture of the left leg, but is progressing favourably.

THE NEW CHEMICAL LABORATORY erected for the use of the scholars at Eton College has just been opened for school purposes, under the superintendence of Mr. Madan. There are two large rooms, one of which will be used for lectures and the other for school purposes.

THE EXAMINATION OF MR. GORTON, the late master butcher of the Clarence Victualling Yard, which preceded his dismissal from the Government service, it is said, will lead to the examination of a number of other persons said to be guilty of irregularities.

MR. HENRY A. ISAACS, chairman of the City Lands Committee, has been presented, on his retirement from office, with a testimonial in the shape of a couple of candelabra and a vase, in silver-gilt and of excellent design, in recognition of his public services in that capacity.

MR. ODGER arrived in Bristol on Wednesday and addressed a large meeting of his friends in the evening, and was well received. He stated his determination to fight to the last, and said he should refuse any preliminary test ballot. He would rather see a Tory elected than another middle-class representative, of whom there were too many. A resolution in his favour was passed.

THE CITY OF LONDON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION gave a banquet to the prominent members of the Opposition in both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday night, Mr. R. N. Fowler, M.P., in the chair. The Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earls of Carnarvon and Derby, and Mr. Disraeli were, however, absent from the gathering.

SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES are believed to be in contemplation by the authorities of Christ's Hospital. Two middle-class day schools, for the accommodation of about 1000 boys, are to be established in London, and the boarding-school of the present hospital is to be removed into the country. A school for girls, and a revision of the rights of donation governors, are also spoken of.

MR. BUCKSTONE, on Wednesday, presided over the annual meeting of the Royal General Theatrical Fund. It was stated that the total income for the year had been £1739, and this left a small balance in hand. The invested fund now amounts to £12,642.

A CAB PROPRIETOR was summoned, on Wednesday, at the Westminster Police Court, for having plied for hire with an unlicensed carriage. Mr. Arnold held that, as there were eight Hackney-Carriage Acts and two sets of regulations, the defendant could not be expected to comprehend their meaning. He was therefore simply ordered to enter into his recognisances to appear for judgment when called upon.

KINGSTON BRIDGE over the Thames will be opened free of toll to-day (Saturday). The Lord Mayor, with the Sheriffs and city officers, will attend in state at the opening. At the conclusion of the formalities the Lord Mayor and civic authorities will be entertained at breakfast by the Mayor and Corporation of Kingston.

THE PREMISES OF MESSRS. HAMILTON AND SON, jewellers, George-street, Edinburgh, were broken into by thieves some time between Saturday afternoon and Monday morning, and bracelets, brooches, earrings, &c., to the value of about £3000 were stolen. Up till a late hour last night no trace of the thieves had been obtained.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has given its sanction to a telegraphic line to connect France and Egypt, touching on the coast of Algeria. No exclusive privilege is conferred by the concession which has been granted; and the tariff is to be 25f. for twenty words.

THE DEAD BODY OF A MAN, about thirty-five years of age, was, on Sunday, found in a brick-kiln, near the mouth of the canal tunnel, at Tunstall, Staffordshire. He is quite unknown in the district. A handkerchief was stuffed in his mouth, and there were bruises and marks of injuries on his forehead, temples, and arms. Many of his front teeth were gone.

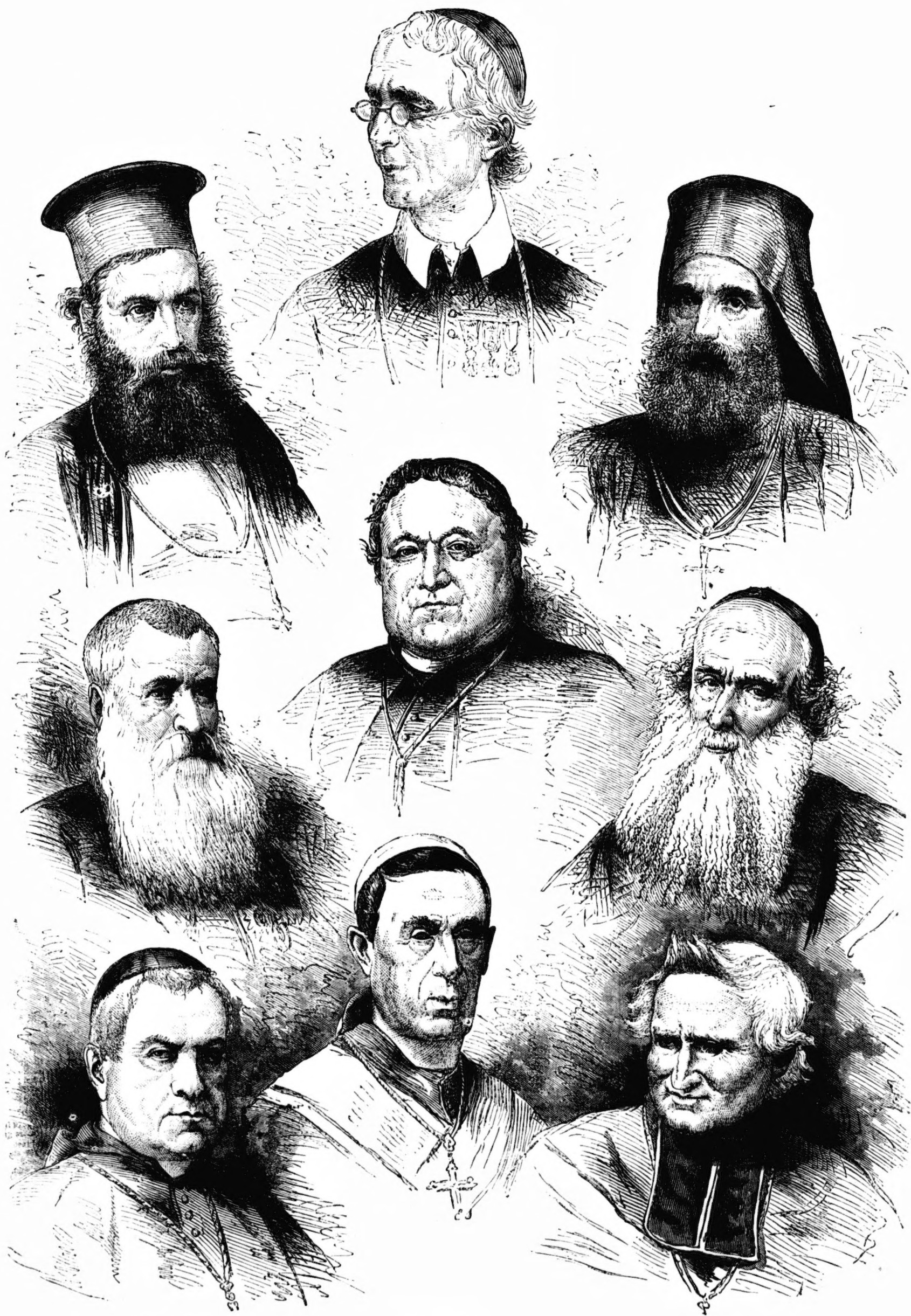
THE NATIONAL INCOME from April 1, 1869, to the 5th instant was £68,278,066, or £5,236,934 short of the estimated receipts for the entire financial year. The issues from the Exchequer within the same dates were £62,596,225, and this was £5,811,775 less than the total expenditure as estimated in last year's Budget.

MRS. LEWIS, wife of Richard Lewis, Esq., barrister, and the well-known secretary of the National Life-Boat Institution, died the other day, after a long illness. Mr. Lewis lost his only child, a grown-up daughter, about three years ago.

LORD DUDLEY lately offered to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester the sum of £10,000 towards the fund for restoring the cathedral, on condition that the edifice should no longer be used for the musical festivals of the three choirs. A numerously attended county meeting was held at Worcester, last Saturday, when, upon the motion of Sir J. Pakington, M.P., seconded by the High Sheriff of Worcestershire, it was resolved to present a memorial to the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral, asking that body to decline the noble Lord's offer.

THE QUESTION WHETHER INSANITY is to be deemed sickness in the case of those who have joined benefit societies was before Mr. Knox, at Marlborough-street, last Saturday. The magistrate held that the person afflicted must obtain a medical certificate stating that insanity had resulted from sickness, and not showing merely the existence of the former. When this was done he would be prepared to go into the matter.

CAPTAIN MADDEN, who lately made a violent and unprovoked attack upon a gentleman in the Queen's Hotel at Manchester, was, on Tuesday, indicted at the South Lancashire Assizes for the offence of unlawfully wounding, and on conviction was sentenced by Mr. Justice Brett to twelve months' imprisonment. Evidence was given that the prisoner had suffered from delusions, and the Judge intimated that the case would be laid before the Home Secretary.

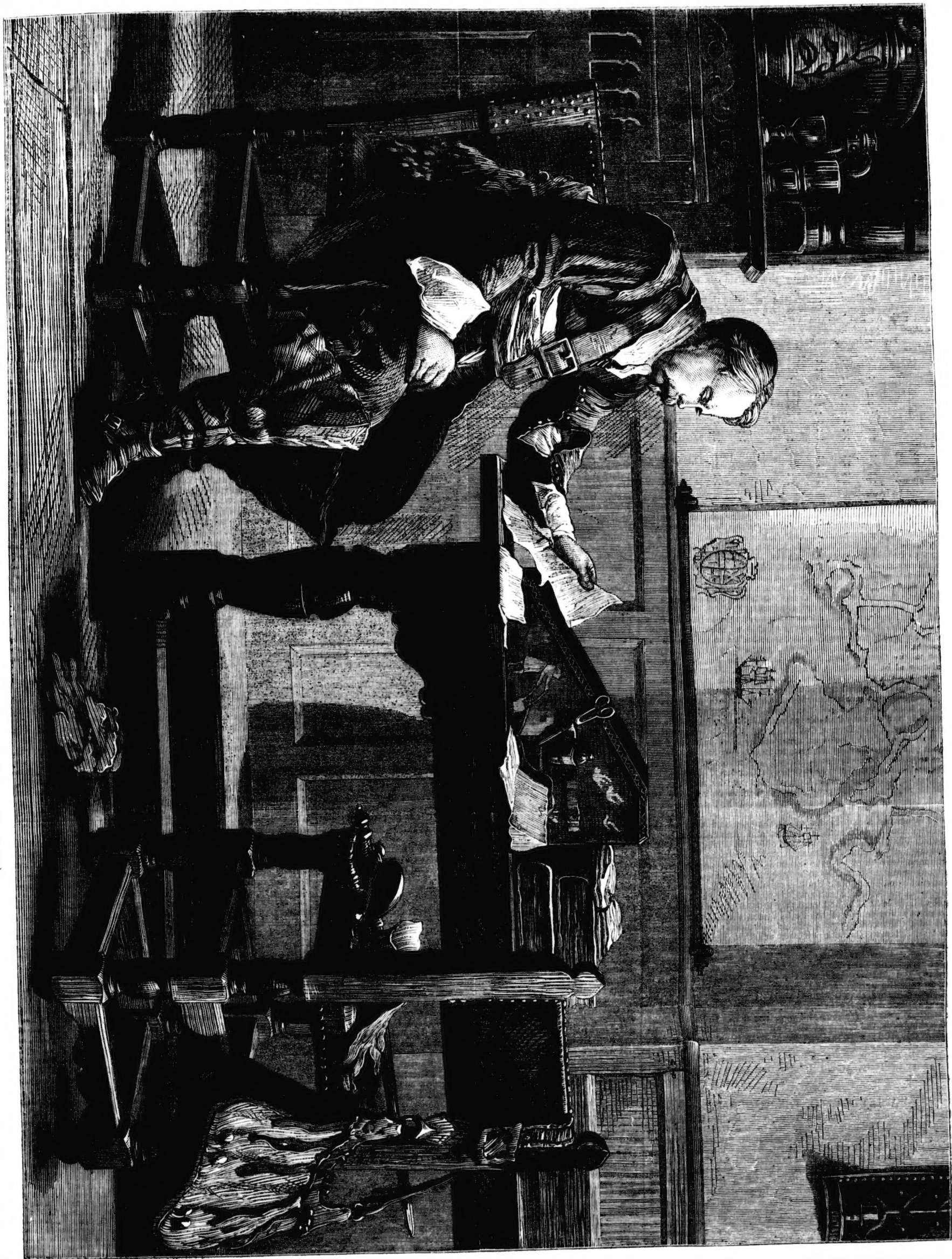


ARMENIAN BISHOP.
BISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE.
AMERICAN BISHOP.

BISHOP OF CHILI.
ITALIAN CARDINAL.
SPANISH BISHOP.

MARONITE BISHOP.
PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM
BISHOP OF ORLEANS

TYPES OF BISHOPS AT THE OECUMENICAL COUNCIL.



"A LETTER TO THE GENERAL."—(PICTURE BY A. G. LUTHER, IN THE PICTURE GALLERY.)

BISHOPS AT THE ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL.

AFTER all they have heard of the Bishops in the great Romish Assembly, it is not unnatural that some of our readers would like to see what manner of men they are physiognomically; and so, though we cannot pretend to publish portraits of 900 ecclesiastics, we venture to give a few types of the most prominent faces. Amongst the most salient of these is that of the French representative, Monsignor Dupanloup, whose keen countenance and fine head well symbolise the part he has played in the Papal controversy. Near him may be seen M. Yglesias, Bishop of Chili, who exhibits just such a face as might be seen in a picture of the Inquisition, passively witnessing an auto-da-fé for the good of souls. The Italian Cardinal, in the centre of this group, is of a different school, and, in fact, comes between the French Bishop and the Spanish Prelate in opinion, while his capability for finesse is expressed by the Florentine character of his lineaments. More grave and solemn are the countenances of the Armenian Lazarists, who have, however, been educated in Italy, in the famous convent of Venice, where the printing press publishes Roman Catholic books in every known language. The severity of their faces well represents the historical missionary labour to which they have devoted themselves. The bearded Patriarchs who represent the East at the great Council should have speaking faces, since they preserve complete silence at the meetings, and maintain a mystic gravity, which is the more striking because of their fine features and magnificent robes. The Patriarch of Constantinople admirably unites in his person the characteristics of these Eastern priests.

Monsignor Valerga, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, is a kind of union of Italian and Oriental influence, having been born at Génes, and spent a long part of his life in the birthplace of the Christian religion.

In contrast to the splendour of these Easterns, the American Bishop is remarkable for the sober severity of his vestments, which seem to be under the influence of Protestant criticism.

The rest of the 900 are, for the most part, either indefinite in character, or are represented by the individuals to whom our illustration refers.

A letter from Rome supplies the following interesting facts respecting the proportions between the members of the Œcumenical Council now present at the Vatican and the Roman Catholic population of the countries they represent.

Prelates in Council, 754; Population, 200,000,000.				
Italy—				
Papal States	143	276	{ 700,000 }	25,000,000
Kingdom of Italy	133		{ 24,300,000 }	
France	84			38,000,000
British Isles—				
England	13			
Scotland	2	35		6,500,000
Ireland	20			
British America	16			1,372,000
United States	48			8,000,000
Austria	48			22,000,000
Germany—				
North	10	19	{ 7,100,000 }	12,100,000
South	9		{ 5,000,000 }	
Spain	41			16,000,000
Belgium	6			4,800,000

It would be irrelevant to our purpose to follow these statements with respect to the minor States of Europe, or to those of Asia, Africa, America, and Australia. We only wish to observe the following striking particulars:—The Italian Prelates in the Council are nearly one third of the whole number, though the population of Italy is barely one eighth that of the whole Roman Catholic world. With respect to Italy itself, the population of the Papal States is more than thirty times as strongly represented in the Council as that of the Italian kingdom. The Prelates from the Roman States constitute more than one fifth of the Council, though the population of those States is to that of the whole Roman Catholic population as 1 to 285. At the rate of population the Italian Prelates ought to be ninety-five; they are 276. Those of France ought to be 128; they are only eighty-four. Italy has three times as many representatives as she ought to have; France has scarcely two thirds of what she ought to have. Again, Italy is six times more strongly represented in the Council than Austria, though the Roman Catholic population of both countries is nearly on a par. Germany, North and South, with nearly half the Roman Catholic population of Italy, has only nineteen representatives in the Council. Those of Italy are fourteen times as numerous. Great Britain and Ireland, with a Roman Catholic population about one sixth that of France, have nearly half as many Prelates in Council as France has; while the United States, with a Roman Catholic population little more than one fifth that of France, send considerably more than half the number of Prelates sent by France; or, in other words, the United States are nearly three times as strongly represented in the Council as France is, and five times as strongly as Germany. Not taking into account the minor Roman Catholic communities, which might easily be ranged in equal proportions on each side, we have the Council divided into two great factions—that of the Ultramontanes, Italians, British, and Anglo-Americans, consisting of 340 Prelates and representing a population of 40,000,000; and that of the anti-Ultramontanes, French, Germans, and Austrians, a population of 70,000,000, represented by only 151 Prelates. These 70,000,000 of French, Germans, and Austrians constitute more than one third of the Roman Catholic population of the whole world. Were they to be fairly represented according to the rate of population, their Prelates ought to be 260. Were they represented in the same ratio as the Italians are, their Prelates ought to be at least 772; and were they to be admitted in the same proportion as the people of the Papal States, their Prelates ought to be 1430. The consequences of this enormously unequal distribution of Roman Catholic dioceses are that the Italian, the English, and the American Prelates, the majority of whom are more Papist than the Pope himself, have it in their power to oppose four, and even five, votes to one against the French, German, and Austrian Prelates, the vast majority of whom are bent on resisting unreasonable Papal pretensions. Were votes to be weighed rather than counted, there is little doubt but the Liberal or Rational party in the Council would be nearly a match for the whole servile faction; and were the flocks to vote instead of the shepherds, the defeat of the Papacy would not be for one moment doubtful; as the Pope could only hope for a certain number of Ultramontanes in France, England, and America; whereas the majority, not only in France, Austria, and Germany, but even in Italy, would be for resistance against Papal pretensions.

"A LETTER TO THE GENERAL."

ONE of the most remarkable pictures in the Dudley Gallery this season is Mr. A. C. Luxmore's "Letter to the General." This work, although classed among water-colour drawings, really does not belong to that order of painting. It is a distemper; and, moreover, Mr. Luxmore seems to have "resorted to the untradesmanlike artifice of saying it is the same concern" by "fluffing" or "roughing," some portions of his paper with a penknife or an American "eraser," so as, colour apart, to counterfeit the texture of leather, cloth, and wood. To be sure, Rembrandt had resorted to a kindred artifice as applied to glass and metal, building up solid bits of colour on places where he knew the light would catch them. Apart from these studio subterfuges, Mr. Luxmore's picture is worthy of much praise. The colour is devoid of transparency; and so must all distemper pictures be in which the artist—as in the present case—seems to ignore the existence of such a process as "glazing;" but the textures are, nevertheless, wonderfully rendered; and the drawing of the bluff old Ironside, who is writing to his commanding officer, is bold, massive, and correct. There is a most whimsical tinge of uncertainty in the face of the gallant officer, who is evidently not very expert as a penman, and looks as though he had not made up his mind whether "General" should be spelt with one "n" or two. As an honest picture, this is one of the best in the gallery.

THE LOUNGER.

A BILL has been, or is to be, brought in by Mr. Hardcastle, I think, to repeal the minority clause in the last Reform Act—that is, the clause which enables the minority in certain counties and boroughs to return a member. And it is confidently asserted that the Government will support the bill. It will be remembered that the House of Commons rejected the clause when the Reform Bill was in Committee; that the Lords inserted it; and that when the bill, as amended, came down to the Commons, the House assented to the amendment. Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Bright all opposed the clause; but, when the Lords' amendment came to be considered, Mr. Disraeli turned round, and moved that the House do consent to the amendment. If the Government should support the bill it will be passed by large majorities—majorities so large that the House of Lords will hardly dare to reject it.

The reason why there is to be an election for East Devonshire is simply this: Lord Courtenay, the Earl of Devon's eldest son, who was elected in 1868, had, for reasons which have never been made public, and which I shall not state, to exile himself at the beginning of last year; and, as he is still unable or unwilling to return, he will accept the Chilterns. Bristol is stirring itself, in prospect of a vacancy. When I saw this I thought that Mr. Berkeley was about to retire; but I have since heard that he had no intention to retire, and that it was the prospect of his death that set Bristol astir. Surely this was hardly decorous. Mr. Berkeley, I regret to add, died on Thursday, at his residence, Victoria-street, Westminster. He was seventy-six years of age. Sir Francis Crossley is seriously unwell; so unwell that it is scarcely possible that he will ever be seen again in the House. Mr. Disraeli, whilst I write, is not so well as he was; he came out too soon, and has had a relapse.

Once, if not more than once, in this column I have, since the education question came prominently to the front, had to remark with emphasis that the so-called religious difficulty is not a religious difficulty but a dogmatic difficulty, which is a very different thing. We all want the people to be religiously educated, but many of us object to the teaching of dogmas in schools endorsed by the State. Well, I was happy to see that this Earl Russell's opinion. In the introduction to his Speeches and Despatches he speaks out with characteristic fearlessness. He says (page 190), "I am almost afraid to avow that I prefer the simple words of Christ to any dogmatic interpretation of them, whether taught by the Pope, by Luther, or by Calvin;" and subsequently he says, "Men have endeavoured to ascertain, by metaphysical research, whether the Son is of the same substance as the Father, whether the Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father only, or from the Father and the Son. These are subjects upon which men may differ, and yet respect each other. But there are matters of infinitely more importance upon which the words of Christ are plain to all understandings. He taught his disciples to love one another. He taught them to pray to God to forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. He taught that, when the traveller was robbed and wounded, it was not the priest and Levite, but the heterodox Samaritan who relieved him. He pointed out that the Samaritan was neighbour to the wounded man. He said, 'Let those who love me obey my commandments.' These commandments are not dogmatical definitions of the nature of God, but clear and practical expositions of great truths." And these and the like of them the noble Earl would have taught in his schools, and not dogmas, to all which I say, "Hear, hear, hear!" It is really time for men to see clearly this distinction between religion and dogmatism. The confusion on the subject is most mischievous. I am not at all sure that Mr. Forster's bill will not be wrecked upon this old rock. A storm is evidently brewing. I perceive signs of it ahead, in the gatherings and clusterings in the lobby of the House, and in the angry, defiant looks and energetic actions, and the strong language, of those who there cluster and gather. This is all the more sad when we consider that Mr. Forster must in his heart be entirely with these remonstrances. It cannot be that he, well known as he is for his breadth of view in all religious matters, can like the policy that has been forced upon him. I cannot help hoping that when he sees the strength of the opposition to dogmatic teaching he will give away.

I regret to inform you that Mr. Thomas Henry Nicholson, artist, died at Portland on Tuesday, aged about fifty-six years. At the outset of his artistic career, Mr. Nicholson devoted himself to sculpture, in which line he attained to very considerable excellence, the delineation of horses being his special forte. It is generally understood that the D'Orsay sculptures, for which the Count obtained so much credit, were mainly, if not entirely, the work of Mr. Nicholson. In later years the deceased gentleman gave much attention to drawing and engraving on wood, and contributed to the pages of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, and other periodicals. I can hardly say that Mr. Nicholson was well known, for his modest, retiring disposition made him shun general society; but he was warmly esteemed by the few friends whom he admitted to intimacy, and his works were admired by many to whom his person, and even his name, were unknown.

Since writing last week I have received two more of Debrett's volumes for 1870. These are the "Illustrated Peerage" and the "Illustrated Baronetage, with Knightage;" and both seem to warrant the editor's claim that Debrett's publications contain more biographical information than most works of the same class. In books like these it is scarcely possible to keep up with the times, as events occur from day to day that affect their contents; and so it is not surprising that, though the information is corrected down to the moment of printing, it is occasionally behind the hour. Hence it is that the death of Admiral Sir Henry Leeke is not noticed in "Debrett," and that his name still stands in the list of Knights. But then Sir Henry died only a few days ago; and, of course, the editor has already "made a note" of the fact, for emendation in his next issue. While speaking about books of reference, I should like to say a word of commendation for a work recently issued by Mr. F. Martin, entitled "Handbook of Contemporary Biography," and published by Macmillan and Co. The book aims at giving, in a condensed form, some biographical particulars of notable living men, keeping to facts only, and entirely excluding opinions. The notices are certainly brief; but much useful information is nevertheless furnished in a department of knowledge where facts are most wanted. "Men of the Time" used to be an unfailing resource in this line; but the last edition of that work which I have seen is now some years old, and of course has ceased to be reliable, death having made sad havoc among the personages who figure in its pages, and hosts of new men having sprung into notice who were unknown to fame when it was last revised. If the publishers of that work do not mean to issue a fresh edition, it is probable that Mr. Martin's compilation will take the place "Men of the Time" once occupied. In any event, it is fortunate that myself and others who have frequent occasion to find out "who's who" have Mr. Martin's volume to help us in our quests.

A grand display of hyacinths, tulips, and other spring flowers will be on view at the Crystal Palace from the 12th to the 26th inst. The flowers are the production of Messrs. Cutbush and Son, of the Highgate nurseries.

Miss Braddon, I hear, is busily engaged upon a novel, the title of which will be "Fenton's Quest." It is understood that the opening chapters will appear in the forthcoming number of *Belgravia*.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

In the *Sunday Magazine* the "Episodes in an Obscure Life," by an East-End Curate, are still extremely interesting. The author says:—"Accidents have a curious fascination for the lower orders of Londoners. No doubt they pity the sufferers; but still they seem to delight in witnessing their sufferings, and to be very proud if they can do anything that brings them at first hand in rapport with the

misery." This remark applies much beyond the usual reading of the phrase "lower orders." How few know the fatigue, the suffering, and the expense caused by concealed, fussy interference, under the name of sympathy!

The following anecdote, from *Once a Week*, is very instructive:—

I heard the following related by Captain (now Lieutenant-Colonel) P—, at his own table:—"When in India with my regiment, I attended a special service which had been appointed to precede the celebration of the Lord's Supper, of which three advanced proselytes desired to partake. Upon the occasion the missionary preached a short sermon, taking his text from Rom. iv. 3—'Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness;' and expounded the narrative in Gen. xxii. A native Hindoo had been observed at the service, who was extremely attentive to the sermon. On the evening of the same day I and a brother officer rode some six or seven miles towards a native village, whence most of the converts came; nearing which our attention was attracted to a crowd of natives, in the midst of which a large pile of wood was blazing, and the monotonous tum-tum of the Indian drum and a low crouching wail were audible. But few words are necessary to describe the difficulty of teaching Christianity to a race of ignorant people whose minds are so governed by external impressions and who are so matter-of-fact in practice; and still fewer words to describe the horror we felt when we found that the strange and attentive native had returned home and literally carried out the command given to Abraham! He had slaughtered his son, and was now offering him to the 'big God' as a sacrifice."

The story may be true or false; it is nearly as instructive in the latter case as in the former.

Good Words for the Young is a very beautiful number, and in "Ronald Bannerman's Boyhood" the editor is at his best.

In *Broadway* the author of the paper on Lord Byron is successful so long as she (surely it is a woman who writes?) keeps on the defensive, but in *attack* she fails. Milton's Adam is bourgeois and priggish; but it is simply ridiculous to call Milton sensual by the side of Byron. Let this writer read the dialogue between the Angel and Adam in the "Paradise," and that between Satan and Cain *line by line*, and she will not repent the labour. These errors come of "comparisons," which are always "odorous." Byron is Byron, Milton is Milton; let us leave each of them "alone in his glory."

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

From a programme of astounding sensationalism (for surely "Formosa" and "After Dark," to say nothing of an occasional turn at "The Streets of London," were enough to stagger anyone), the PRINCESS's has come down to a singularly mild bill of fare. Milk rice-pudding after mulligatawny soup is not too bold a contrast by way of comparison. "Paul Lafarge" is a two-act drama from the French, containing no trace of that neatness of construction and point usually found in French plays. A well-bred French Countess, for private purposes of her own, marries her illiterate gamekeeper; but the cruel joke costs her very dear. The gamekeeper is a Duke in disguise, becomes a distinguished Colonel, and snubs the Countess in turn. But the Countess loves him to distraction, and they fall into one another's arms as the curtain falls. This well-known plot can be detected in many a play. Precisely the same situation occurs in "Camilla's Husband," "The Wonderful Woman," "The Chevalier St. George," and something very like it in "The Lady of Lyons." But "Paul Lafarge" is wearisome as well as weak. As the story is too heavy for two acts, the audience is worried by the introduction of documents, and divorces, and papers, which are brought forward in rapid succession. Fog is the natural result. However, the play affords opportunities for some pretty acting by Miss Rose Leclercq, a lady who is invariably graceful in her movements, and, were it not for her unfortunate voice, would be a very interesting artist. All her business is cleverly thought out, and, on the whole, she pleased me much in this play. And so, by-the-by, did Miss Le Thière, one of the best actresses of her class on the stage. I shall not readily forget how excellently this lady played in Mr. Boucicault's "Hunted Down," at the St. James's, some years ago. It strikes me as strange that Miss Le Thière plays so seldom. Mrs. Stirling and Mrs. Wigan have, somehow, vanished. Miss Elsworth is seldom seen. Miss Le Thière is certainly now the best representative of the imposing English mamma. Mr. Rignold, as young lovers go on our stage, was not so bad; but Mr. Belmont made little of a very bad part. The other novelty is an adaptation of Scribner's operetta of "Giralda." It has been acted before as "Giralda; or, The Miller's Wife." Opera subjects are confessedly preposterous, but we forgive the nonsense of the plot for the sake of the music. I may be allowed, therefore, to quarrel with an opera libretto shorn of its music. It is a silly and rather equivocal farce in which jokes are made on the situation of a young girl on her wedding-night retiring with a man she detests. The greater part of the action of the play is carried on in a scene perfectly dark, and this always irritates an audience. Indeed, a lady sitting behind me in the stalls got absolutely savage, and quarrelled with her husband. "A Dark Night's Work," as Scribner's opera is called, contains no opportunities for acting. The joke of the whole thing was the appearance of my dear old friend, Mr. Robert Romer, of the Adelphi, in a long and important part. This was exquisitely funny, and those who know Mr. Romer's peculiarities should go at once and see him play Mendoza, the King's chamberlain. His now confidential, now off-handed style was never exhibited to greater advantage. In a few weeks the Princess's will be occupied by the best French company I suppose we have ever had in London. The names of Lafont and Regnier are towers of strength, and I actually hear it is not improbable that Desclée will come over and play her original character in "Frou-frou." Mlle. Leonide Leblanc, who made such a favourable impression last year, is also in the company.

Who is not familiar with George Cruikshank's illustration to Pierce Egan's "Tom and Jerry," a comical brochure which made a great noise some fifty years ago? The adventures of these famous "sparks," who went hand-in-hand to see all the sights of town, were promptly dramatised, and one theatre after another made a fortune out of the folly of the hour. Mr. Cave, the energetic manager of the VICTORIA, has very cleverly revived this celebrated dramatic panorama (play it can hardly be called), and has taken great pains with the dresses and mise en scène. Particular attention has been paid to the spirited "row" with the old "charlies" in Fleet-street, and better fighting I have never seen than on the Victoria stage. As one cad after another was promptly knocked down by Tom, Jerry, or Dr. Logic, the enormous audience literally screamed with delight. Altogether, a Saturday-night audience at the Victoria is a wonderful sight. It is only unpleasant to the olfactory nerves.

"Ours" will shortly be revived at the PRINCE OF WALES's, and Mrs. Bancroft returns to her seat on the front bench of "School" next week. A new theatre opens in Pitfield-street, Hoxton, on Monday. A lounge which extends from Hoxton in one direction to Croydon or Greenwich in the other is rather a serious affair; but your Loungeer does not complain. There is a rumour that the ADELPHI is to close almost immediately.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S FUND.—A conference, over which the Bishop of London presided, was on Wednesday held at Willis's Rooms, at which the question how far the fund established by Archbishop Taft had fulfilled the intention of its supporters was discussed at some length. Amongst the speakers were the Earl of Carnarvon; Lord Sandon, M.P.; Sir C. Trevelyan, the Rev. J. Kempe, and the Rev. J. Bardsley. It was the prevailing impression that the fund had fulfilled the objects with which it was founded; and Lord Carnarvon, in the course of his observations, made an earnest appeal for more lay assistance than had hitherto been rendered.

THE IRISH ASSIZES.—In charging the grand jury at the Cork Assizes, Mr. Justice Fitzgerald pronounced the state of the Munster Circuit as, upon the whole, satisfactory. There was a considerable increase of wealth upon the part of the people, and a great improvement in apparent material condition. From a record of the offences reported to the constabulary of the county of Cork, there was no substantial cause for alarm. Chief Justice Monahan, in opening the Assizes at Tullamore, referred to several instances in which threatening letters had been received, and regretted that no one had been made amenable to justice for this description of crime. Baron Hughes, in addressing the grand jury at Waterford, expressed his belief that the sending of threatening letters was generally the work of one person in the district.

FINE ARTS.

NEW BRITISH INSTITUTION, 39, OLD BOND-STREET.

THE addition of a new exhibition of pictures to those already established may not be in itself an advantage, for we have had recent examples of the manner in which a "gallery" may be opened by collecting a number of ill-assorted works, together with a few by eminent artists in order to give a certain character to at least one or two out of half a dozen rooms. We have seen, too, a hanging committee carrying out their functions in a way which might have led to a jesting allusion to all the pictures having been executed for the occasion. The institution of a good periodical display of modern paintings is, however, always a public advantage; and we are among those who see in the present tendency to form a number of small exhibitions not only an escape from the tyranny of great authorities, but a pleasant recognition that no visitor to a large collection can hope to do more than appreciate a few of its beauties, and runs the risk of losing that discriminative power which alone makes art-criticism possible.

The New British Institution is at present installed in one moderate-sized room, containing few more than 200 paintings; and we may at once say that it is a very charming exhibition indeed—just large enough pleasantly to occupy a long morning delightfully. The arrangement of the pictures has been intrusted to a committee of seven gentlemen, whose names are published; and are (with that of Mr. Thomas J. Gullick, the honorary secretary) sufficient guarantee for the efficient performance of that part of the work, for the results of which they may well be commended.

One of the pleasantest features of this bijou gallery is the number of small gems it contains. Beginning at No. 1, a pretty picture by Mr. Crawford, called "Pleasant News," we come to Mr. Henry's Interior of St. Mark's Church (3), a finely-toned picture, with great effect of shadow. Two lovely little bits, by Mr. F. R. Lee, R.A., "Over the Wooden Bridge and Through the Wood" (5) and "Old Mill on the River Yeo" (16), are admirable examples of that exquisite handling of wood and water which made the artist's name famous long ago. Mr. G. Hastings's "Three Cliff Bay" (6) is a remarkable bit of real cliff and rock; and Mr. Faed's "Fisher-Girl" (10) is as attractive as everything from his brush must be to the ordinary visitor, who has often a better insight than that of the critic. The same can scarcely be said of Mr. Stanhope's "Ariadne" (9), which, in spite of some admirable handling, is painted in what may be called the needlework style of art. Mr. Haynes King sends a pretty picture of a mother carrying a big baby boy along a tiresome country path—under the title of "The Wayfarers" (17); and Mr. Grierson a capital domestic subject, called "The Hard Task" (21), representing a girl poring over her lesson. "Tossed in Anger" (19) is an ambitious and successful sea effect by Mr. G. S. Walters. Mr. W. C. T. Dobson, A.R.A., contributes a picture of a little fair rustic beauty, under the title "Vergessmännicht," from the tiny blue flowers that she holds in her hand as a laughing challenge. On the mantelpiece are two fine pictures—one, "Le Joueur de Violoncelle" (30), by M. A. Legros, a half-figure, with great breadth and tone in colour; the other an exquisite replica, by Professor Verdat, of "The Virgin, Child, and St. John"—a painting that is now at St. Cloud. A very charming little work is Mr. Gale's "Beemaster" (35)—not Dr. Cumming, who wrote in that name to the *Times*, but a genuine old apriarian, hard at work making straw hives, and at the same time listening to the prattle of a playful little grandchild. "Pats" (40), by Mr. J. W. Treeby, jun., is another pleasant morsel of colour, representing a charming little girl playing with a tame pigeon. A glorious picture is "A Study in the Fields" (46), by Mr. W. Linnell; the golden glow of the corn, the flock of bright poppies, the light and air, are exquisite; and M. Docharty's "Mist after Rain" (47) is a capital contrast of cool atmospheric effect. For marvellous cool, even tone and breadth of handling, however, commend us to "A Morning View in the Ardennes" (81), by M. F. Lamoriniere. Mr. J. T. Linnell's "Vale of Neath" is very lovely, full of purple charm of cloud and reflecting stream, and with such exquisite foliage as can be seen in the work of few other painters of woodland. "My Pet Bird," by M. Castiglione, is full of bright colour in the half-Oriental dresses of the two women and the gaudy plumage of the parquets, admirably rendered. A large and effective picture of "The Jungfrau, from the Path to Murren," by Mr. Sidney Hodges, and Mr. Lucy's historical scene of "The Forced Abduction of Mary Queen of Scots," are two of the finest full-sized works in the exhibition.

Mr. J. Archer, F.S.A., sends one of his quiet pictures of true rustic life in "Bringing Home the Heather" (88), and Mr. Perigal, F.S.A., an admirable painting of Norham Castle.

In "Blue Bells" (92) Mr. H. Wallis has accomplished the difficult task of painting that marvellous gush of colour that seems to emanate from a bed of wild flowers on a grassy slope; and the female figures plucking the blooms are beautifully in accordance with the scene, that sort of pearliness of atmosphere which gives a tone to such a scene being admirably preserved. Mr. W. Oulless has sent "Grapes" (97) that make one's mouth water, they are so exquisite in their transparent ripeness and bloom.

"La Feria" (99), by Mr. Haynes Williams, is a capital picture of a Spanish market, the foreground being occupied by a pedlar of the true type, who holds out for the admiration of the dark-eyed girls the gaudy trinkets that he comes there to sell. There is much of vigour and striking colour in these figures, while in the background a priest not altogether in favour of these vanities, and a soldier who is being courted by a nutbrown belle from behind her fan, give a great deal of character to the scene.

"News From the Old Home" (111), by Mr. A. W. Bayes, is an admirable little bit of colour and drawing. One of the most striking works in the exhibition is Mr. J. C. Thorne's "French Shepherdess Going to Midnight Christmas Mass Through the Snow," their devoted band following an old man accompanied by a sheep and carrying a lantern, and a younger companion who signals to the followers with a cross held above his head.

Mr. MacCallum sends a grand, dark picture of "The Cedar-Grove, Chiswick." Mr. Cave Thomas contributes a remarkable representation of "Angels Contemplating Men," for which purpose they stand upon solid and impenetrable slabs of indigo and slate-coloured sky, and are dressed in robes of various shades of red—one of them, however, seeming to prefer dark green. Mr. C. J. Lewis's "Day Among the Hills" (135) is simply beautiful, with its fresh greenery and wealth of blackberry blossom; and "Through the Woods and Over Mountain," by Mr. A. W. Williams, is full of glorious autumn tints.

Mr. Selous has chosen "Ophelia" (136) as his subject, and has represented the sweet, demented maid in the wood by the brook. It is seldom that an artist has caught the poetic vision of Ophelia so truly; and the colouring, tone, and balance of the picture are all admirable. "Autumn Evening on the Thames," by Mr. S. Warren, is attractive for its quiet beauty; and "Mist and Sunshine," by Mr. Peter Graham, would arrest attention in any exhibition for the undoubted mastery of atmospheric effect and cloud painting that distinguishes this artist. In "The Wounded Finger" Mr. J. Haylar has contributed an excellent half-humorous piece of realism. The expression of care and anxiety on the grimy face of the old smith as he binds with his frowzy handkerchief the tiny digit of the pretty little white-skirted lady who sits on his work-bench is admirable.

A grand picture of "Glen Etive, near Glencoe," has been sent by Mr. J. Docharty, whose rendering of hill-side and rock and black-faced sheep, of dim mountain distance and darkling abyss spanned by a timber bridge, are suggestive of the historical tragedy always associated with that wild spot. With a wonderful "interior" by Mr. E. Wagnez (160), and a charming rustic scene, "Crossing the Common" (197) by Mr. W. C. T. Dobson, A.R.A., we must close the present notice of an admirable exhibition.

DEPUTATIONS TO MR. LOWE.

THE MALT TAX.

ON Tuesday a deputation from the Central Chamber of Agriculture waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the subject of the excise duty on malt. In addition to many representatives of provincial chambers of agriculture, the following members of Parliament were present:—Mr. J. Figgins, Sir G. Jenkinson, Mr. R. P. Amplett, Sir E. M. Buller, Sir E. Lacon, Colonel Bartelot, the Hon. G. Milles, Mr. W. T. Mitford, Mr. C. Wren Hoskyns, Mr. O. Gore, Sir Percy Herbert, Mr. Rowland Winn, Mr. H. C. Wise, Mr. Benyon, Mr. Hildyard, Colonel Tomline, Mr. Wingfield Baker, Mr. J. Floyer, Mr. J. B. Gregory, &c.

Colonel Tomline, M.P., having introduced the deputation, the Secretary read a memorial, which had been adopted at the meeting, urging that the malt tax was prejudicial to the agricultural interest, inasmuch as it interfered with the growth of crops of second-class barley. By the excise restrictions farmers were prohibited using germinating grain and malt as food for their sheep and cattle, which placed the English farmer at a disadvantage with regard to foreigners. The malt tax also fell heavily upon the labourer, prevented cottage brewing, and offered an inducement to adulterate beer with injurious compounds.

Mr. Rowley (Cheshire) drew attention to the operation of the malt tax in Ireland, where, he said, the land was especially adapted for the growth of barley; but, owing to the tax, a great portion of it had gone out of cultivation.

Mr. May (Staffordshire) urged that every facility should be given to growers to make the best of their barley crops; and it was simply an act of justice to place them in the same position as foreigners.

Mr. Leamour (Essex) spoke of the great advantages the farmer derived from feeding with dry grain, and urged that as a reason why the malt tax should be repealed.

Mr. Gardner (Essex) said there were many inferior kinds of barley which would not be touched by the brewer, which, when dried, were most valuable for feeding, and it was an injustice that they should have to pay a tax upon it amounting to something like cent per cent.

Mr. Whitwell and Mr. Biddell (Ipswich), Mr. Lemon (Norfolk), Mr. J. Moore (Shropshire), and Mr. Latimore (Hereford), having also spoken upon the subject,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply, said he would admit that it was quite impossible to levy a revenue of seven millions upon one single article of agriculture without interfering with the produce of the land. He also admitted that it was exceedingly undesirable that such a class as the deputation represented should live in discontent. Nothing would therefore give him greater pleasure than to be able to do anything which would be of service to them and to the country at large. As to the repeal of the malt tax, he must tell them that the thing was impossible, because all the duties upon spirits and fermented liquors hung together. He could not remove that tax, because it would shake the whole foundation upon which some £15,000,000 was raised upon spirits. Whether he might ever be able to reduce it was another thing, and the views which had been put before him would be most carefully considered. If he could find the means of putting whatever duty was collected on at a later stage nothing would give him greater pleasure. Then, with regard to the question of private brewing (a voice, "License"). He could not take licenses from labourers, and then it would be a haul for fraud. The whole question was full of difficulty, and all he could promise was that the question would be looked into, and if any means could be adopted to set their industry more free, and redress the matters of which they complained, nothing would give him more pleasure; but, if it were not done, they would know that it was not from the want of the will to do it on his part.

THE SAVINGS BANKS BILL.

A deputation, including numerous representatives from provincial towns, waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Downing-street, on Tuesday, on the subject of the Savings Banks Bill. Mr. T. Baring, M.P., said the present rate of interest had been raised since 1844, and depositors had been induced to invest their money on the strength of their getting their 3 or 3½ per cent interest. Even if the cost were £90,000, it was really a saving to the country by producing habits of thrift. Mr. Hibbert, M.P., as one of the trustees of the Manchester Savings Bank, said that the feeling of investors was decidedly against any alteration being made. Mr. R. A. Cross, M.P., was quite sure that no greater injury could be done to savings banks than by continually disturbing their security. Mr. Mundella thought it would be difficult to prove that a loss had been sustained by the Government. Mr. Gavin, M.P., urged that the reduction in Ireland would not recruit the ranks of law and order, but rather the opposite. Mr. Wheelhouse, M.P.; Mr. Miller, M.P.; Lord Sandon, M.P.; Mr. M'Arthur, M.P.; Mr. Monk, M.P.; Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P.; and Mr. Graham, M.P., also addressed the right hon. gentleman. The Chancellor of the Exchequer expressed his great desire to promote thrift and economy in the poorer classes. He did not treat the question with levity, or without being aware of the influences brought to bear upon him. The Government was compelled to invest the deposits in certain ways, by which only 3½ per cent could be obtained. The Government had to buy when stock was high and sell when low. The Government had lost £3,270,000 since 1844, and it was his duty to put the question before Parliament. It was not a question of economy; but if that were not done under Act of Parliament it would be one of misappropriation of public funds. He was also asked to enter into competition with the bankers, and pay a larger interest than would be paid by them. Was it just that the nation at large should be taxed for the benefit of a class? Free trader as he had always been, he could not consent to this. It was a position he was quite unable to take up. In reply to Mr. Baring, the right hon. gentleman said that the bill stood for Thursday. He promised to give hon. members every opportunity for discussion. He did not wish to see the Chancellor of the Exchequer have granted to him any powers of lending public money. After some further conversation the deputation withdrew.

ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—A serious accident happened on the Great Western Railway last Saturday evening, about midway between the Stourbridge and Kidderminster stations. Between these two places there are small stations at Hayley and Churchill, and the line from the former to the latter is a heavy incline. A coal-train of thirty-five wagons was running down this incline at ten minutes after five in the evening, at the rate of forty miles an hour, when the axle of the truck next the engine snapped, and the wheel flew off. This instantly threw the train into confusion, and only ten of the wagons remained on the rails. Seventeen or eighteen were smashed; the wheels, grease-boxes, and iron-work were wrenched off, and one or two iron-sided trucks were ripped to pieces. One half of the foremost truck was carried on about a quarter of a mile by the engine before the driver could pull up, and the fragment was then jerked partly on the other line of rails. The train was 200 or 300 yards from the passenger station when the wheel flew off the first truck, and a great part of the wreck was deposited between the two platforms. The amount of damage done was very great, and seemed to surprise even the railway officials. The only person near at the time was a junior porter, who was engaged near the end of the platform. Seeing the wagons moving about, he ran away from the line: pieces of iron and coal were whirled over the spot where he had been. One of the brakemen was severely shaken, but no one else was hurt. A fast passenger-train on the same line was due shortly after the accident; and but for this portion of the line being worked on the block system, it would probably have come on unchecked, and been exposed to serious peril, as it runs through Churchill at thirty or thirty-five miles an hour. A fast train from South Wales, which runs through Churchill without stopping, was also due a little later. Both these trains were, after some delay, drawn as near as possible to Churchill station, and the passengers exchanged from one to the other. The passenger traffic was carried on in this way for the rest of the night. Messages were sent off to Worcester, Wolverhampton, and other stations for assistance, and several hundred men were brought to the spot in special trains. Fires were lighted along the line for them to work by; but the manner in which the trucks were jammed together, especially between the platforms, made it a slow task to clear the line. It took eleven hours to clear one line, and the goods-trains which had accumulated during the night were then sent on.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

A VERY numerous deputation from the National Education League, on Wednesday, waited upon Mr. Gladstone, for the purpose of explaining the objections of that body to the Government bill lately introduced by Mr. Forster. It was pointed out to the Premier that the principles for which the League contended were—the duty of the State to see to the education of every child; the cost of the instruction imparted to be defrayed by a combination of rates and taxes; the education to be secular, free, and unsectarian; and the attendance to be compulsory. Mr. Gladstone, who was accompanied by Earl De Grey and Mr. Forster, discussed the matter at some length with the members of the deputation, and promised that the various points which had been touched upon should be most carefully considered.

At a special meeting of the Birmingham Town Council held on Tuesday to consider the Government Education Bill, Alderman Holland, ex-Mayor, moved:—"That the Education Bill introduced by the Government is open to serious objections in many particulars, and this council is of opinion that the bill should be amended, in order that the following principles may be established. That it be imperative upon school boards to see that all children of school age should receive instruction; that it would be unwise and unjust to appropriate grants of money from local rates to aid in promulgating the conflicting theological views of different denominations, and that therefore all public elementary schools should be entirely unsectarian; that difficulty and injustice will always surround any system of national education which is not unconditionally free, and that the mode of electing and maintaining school boards proposed in the bill, except in cities and boroughs, should be altered." Mr. C. H. Edwards seconded the motion. Mr. John Lowe moved an amendment, affirming that the Government bill was worthy of support. Mr. Nock seconded the amendment. The original motion was carried by 27 against 3.

At public meetings at Northampton and Stourbridge, on Tuesday night, resolutions expressive of the League's amendments to the Government bill were adopted.

The Education Bill was severely handled at Liverpool on Tuesday by the United Presbyterian Presbytery at their annual meeting, and by a conference of Protestant Nonconformists, held in the Law Association Rooms. The former body resolved to petition the House of Commons to amend various clauses, which, if passed unamended, will seriously interfere with the religious liberty of the people; while at the conference Mr. J. J. Stett, who was in the chair, argued that the clauses relating to religious instruction were calculated to shirk and not meet difficulties, to settle nothing and unsettle everything, and even to revive religious animosities. The special committee of the Liverpool Town Council, appointed to consider the bill, advise the council to report only on the financial burdens cast on ratepayers and the position of the corporation schools as affected by the bill. This report will be discussed at a special meeting of the council next Saturday.

On Tuesday night a large and very influential attendance meeting was held in Birkenhead, under the auspices of the National Education League, to consider the Government Education Bill. The meeting was distinguished for the union exhibited of Nonconformists and members of the Established Church, many ministers of both being present. Mr. James Taylor, chairman of the town commissioners, being absent through illness, the chair was taken by Mr. Samuel Stitt. The chairman enlarged upon the debased condition of the people, showing the necessity for education. The Government bill was deserving of support in many respects, particularly in its compulsory feature, and the amendments required, in order to avert religious conflicts, that secular education only should be given by the State. He commended the propriety of delegating religious instruction to religious people and not to school teachers. The Rev. P. L. Sandberg, minister of the Church of England, proposed the first resolution, enforcing the necessity for alteration in the bill, which was seconded by Mr. W. F. Prange, and carried. The Rev. Dr. Macleod, Presbyterian minister, proposed a resolution approving the principle of unsectarian compulsory education; which was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Macdonald, Wesleyan minister, and carried. Mr. Brown, member of a deputation from Birmingham, having explained the principles of the League, it was determined enthusiastically—upon the motion of the Rev. H. King, Baptist minister, seconded by Major R. Gaskell—to send to Parliament a petition embodying the views enforced at the meeting.

At a meeting of Nonconformist ministers held at Nottingham a resolution was moved by the Rev. J. Matheson, B.A., seconded by the Rev. Clement Clemance, B.A., and unanimously adopted, to the effect that, while acknowledging the efforts of Mr. Forster on behalf of national education, the conference was of opinion that, should the present bill become law, it would aggravate some of the worst defects of the present educational system, and would kindle a flame of sectarian strife in every part of the land; that the present bill would create a new ecclesiastical establishment in almost every parish, and a battle for religious ascendancy would necessarily ensue at every election of the school board; that the principle of compulsion cannot with justice be applied in connection with a system of denominational education; that the conscience clause of the bill is invidious, useless, illusory, and deceptive; and that if the principles of the bill be established in England, they ought in equity to be applied to Ireland, in which case a large majority of the existing national schools supported by the State would become strictly Romish schools, which vast numbers of Protestant children would be compelled to attend. The conference, therefore, in the name of religion and of liberty, recorded its conviction that only such schools ought now to be created by the State as should be strictly undenominational, and its hope that the bill now before Parliament would be amended so as to secure this end, or that legislation on the subject be deferred. It was also decided that petitions would be prepared, expressive of these convictions, for the signature of members of Nonconformist congregations in the county of Nottingham.

INJURY TO THE TELEGRAPH WIRES.—Mr. Sudamore, Second Secretary at the General Post Office, notifies that on Sunday afternoon communication between London and Liverpool, and London and Manchester, by telegraph was interrupted upon three wires to each town. The fault was speedily discovered to be between Barnet and St. Albans, and, on further inquiry being made, it was found that at a spot near to Barnet the wires in question had been maliciously twisted together from pole to pole. Active steps are being taken with a view to ascertain by whom the offence was committed.

PROFESSOR MAX MÜLLER ON THE SCIENCE OF RELIGION.—Professor Max Müller delivered the third of his course of lectures on the Science of Religion, at the Royal Institution, on Saturday, in the presence of a very large auditory. Prince Christian and Dean Stanley were again among those present. The lecturer began by explaining the intimate connection between language and religion, particularly in ancient times, and he proceeded to show that the classification which had been adopted in the science of language was equally applicable to religions. He established for the continent of Asia and Europe three families of religion—the Aryan, the Semitic, and the Turanian, and detailed some of the characteristic features of each. He then endeavoured to show that, by collecting a number of words which have the same form and the same meaning in Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Celtic, Teutonic, and Slavonic, it was possible to put together some kind of mosaic picture, exhibiting the state of civilisation of the Aryan family before it was broken up into different languages, religions, and nationalities. Most of that picture embraces the religion of the Aryan nations during that prehistoric period, and it was shown that the worship of Jupiter had been established before Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Celtic, Teutonic, and Slavonic were separate languages. By applying the same method to the Semitic languages, certain conclusions were arrived at which showed what the religious element of the Semitic family must have been before it was broken up into its three branches—the Northern or Aramaic, the Southern or Arabic, and the Middle or Hebrew. Several names of Semitic deities were shown to have existed during that prehistoric period; but the names of Elohim and Jehovah were claimed as peculiar to the Jews. Lastly, a description was given of the primitive religion of the Turanian races; and it was stated that before the Chinese had been separated from the Jungian, Mongolic, Tartaric, and Finnic tribes, a worship of the spirit of Heaven, of spirits of nature, and of ancestral spirits, had existed, traces of which could be discovered scattered about in the religion and mythology of the North Turanian or Altaic races.

HER MAJESTY, attended by several members of the Royal family, on Wednesday, held the first Drawingroom of the season in the Throne-room of Buckingham Palace. A number of presentations were made.



CARNIVAL PROCESSION AT BARCELONA.

THE REIGNING KING OF SIAM.

We have from time to time published particulars of those changes in the Government of Siam which have followed the death of its two last rulers and the enterprise of French colonial policy in that kingdom; and our present illustration represents the young monarch who now occupies the throne, Somdech-Phra-Paramendz-Maha-Chulalon-Korn, now seventeen years old, and the fifth sovereign of the dynasty of which he is the representative. From his European education, the young King is well calculated to carry on the enlightened progress made in that strange Oriental monarchy under the auspices of his father; but the Regent is still more advanced than was his late master. This Regent, chosen to the post for his eminent qualities, is Chow-Phia-Sri-Sury-Wongse, close friend and companion of the late King and Minister of War, in which capacity he is in direct communication with, and has enormous influence over, the Senabodi, or council of mandarins. It is of this celebrated Siamese statesman that Sir John Bowring gives so complimentary an account in his work on Siam, where he says that in all the conversations he had with the "Kalahome" he found him possessed of the qualities that distinguished the most remarkable men in Europe—great judgment, profound experience in men and things, united to a modesty and simplicity which would render him an alert diplomatist, at the same time that he is a firm adherent of the cause of the people and an undoubted patriot.

CARNIVAL PROCESSION AT BARCELONA.

Spain at present has very little to laugh at—not much even to be transiently merry about; but even there the usual observances of the Carnival season have been observed—at Barcelona, at all events; and the sketch from which our illustration is taken is a memento of the principal event of the season. Whether the fierce and truculent Barcelonese found the holiday week too short for their festivities or not cannot be declared, but, at all events, they made the most of the time at their disposal, and with the traditional observances of the period of extravagance gathered in the days of feasting. Things alter very little in Spain, though many public spectacles there are a little faded. It was only the other day that we were speaking of the festival of the Three Kings; and the Carnival, though a more pretentious ceremonial, is about equally subservient to the two principal actors who represent the gigantic pair that usher the masqueraders through the streets, amidst ringing of bells, blowing of horns, and all the noise that indicates a general holiday. Surrounded by their grotesquely-attired retainers, their gigantic majesties make the tour of the city, and are afterwards conducted to a house which is for the time their palace, where they are feasted right royally at a banquet purchased with the contributions of the faithful.

DISTRESS IN MADRID.

THE east end of London—bad as matters may be there—is not the only place where men are to be found in thousands who have "got no work to do." Affairs are in a much worse state with the working man in Madrid than in London. In the Spanish capital there are said to be no less than 40,000 artisans idle, in addition to the large number of persons there who never do have work, and, we suppose, are in no way eager to obtain it, but who, nevertheless, form a dangerous element when united with so huge a mass of men who would work if they could get it to do. Among the many difficulties the Regent's Government have to contend with, this of the unemployed workmen is not the least, for among such persons there is inflammable matter which the least spark may ignite; and, unfortunately, there are plenty of intriguers at work in Spain ready to take advantage of the sufferings, and consequent discontent, that pervade not the capital only but the whole country. The agents of Don Carlos, of the ex-Queen, of Montpensier, of the Republicans, and, last but not least, the priests, are all at work; and serious mischief may result if the Government cannot devise means of meeting the emergency. The demonstration in the Prado, at Madrid, which is depicted in our Engraving, and the petition to the Cortes that emanated from it, may well, therefore, cause anxiety both to Government and Legislature, and, we hope, will hasten their efforts to settle "the social" as well as



THE NEW KING OF SIAM.

other questions, and so avert the danger of serious conflicts in the country.

MEDICINE AS A PROFESSION FOR WOMEN.

A CROWDED and fashionable audience, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, assembled on Monday evening at the Victoria Discussion Society meeting, Architectural Gallery, Conduit-street, to hear a discussion on medicine as a profession for women. Dr. Drysdale opened the subject by an excellent paper, in which he argued, firstly, the fitness of women for professional life in general; and, secondly, her fitness for the medical profession in particular. Having disposed of the common arguments used by opponents, he proceeded, by a sketch of modern medical art, to show that the practice of medicine was a pursuit in which any educated woman might engage; that the poor would never be properly attended until women entered the profession; and that female patients at least ought to have the option of calling in a practitioner of either sex. The paper was received with loud cheering. Miss Faithfull urged that the chief thing to wonder at was, not that women wished to practise medicine, but that they had ever discontinued a work so essentially womanly. Public

opinion was advancing very surely and steadily with regard to the question, and observant persons were convinced that, as some women were determined to practise medicine, and others to employ them, they must choose between a system which would render their education imperfect or complete. The argument that the result of the movement would be to displace men was the chief lion in the path of reform; but there were some lesser lions which, though not so dangerous, were very noisy. It was said sometimes that women themselves were not anxious to have women doctors; but as a matter of fact the students who had been trained at the Female Medical College were already employed in maternity cases, and both Miss Garrett and Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell found more to do than they could accomplish. Her opinion was that women who wished to enter the medical profession were bound to fulfil the same conditions as men, and that the present recognised standard ought not to be lowered. Miss Garrett recommended all ladies who intended to enter the medical profession to give themselves up wholly to it—it could not be engaged in as a subsidiary work. While there was a public opinion in favour of women physicians, there was a tremendous wall of opposition yet to be encountered. She objected to special schools for female students, because they would disqualify them for consultations and other pursuits where they would naturally have to act with ordinary practitioners. She thought there were no great demands for female practitioners merely as midwives. Her advice to students was to make up their minds for much opposition and hard work, and her opinion was that in the course of time they would triumph. Dr. Billing, Mr. Levy, Dr. Edmunds, Dr. Chapman, Mrs. Horace St. John, Miss Wallington, and Mrs. Robertson Johnston, continued the discussion, which was so animated and interesting that it was found necessary to adjourn it to the first Monday in May. The noble chairman, in acknowledging a vote of thanks moved by Mrs. Robertson Johnston, said he was more convinced than ever, after the admirable speeches of Miss Faithfull, Miss Garrett, and Dr. Drysdale, of the soundness of the movement, which aimed to open the medical profession to women.

STREET TRAMWAYS.

AN exhibition of models illustrating the street-tramway system is on view at 35, Parliament-street, Westminster. It is promoted by the Metropolitan Street-Tramways Company, with the object of illustrating the modes of locomotion which the public will soon have in the streets of the metropolis. Bills were passed last Session authorising the construction of lines in East London, the Surrey side of the river, and Pimlico, Peckham, and Greenwich. The first and second have been commenced, but some dispute with a local vestry stops practical proceedings with regard to the third. The exhibition received additional interest from the numerous tramway projects in different parts of the country for which legislative sanction is at the present time being sought. The Kennington line, mentioned in our last Number, and that between Whitechapel and Bow, will probably be the first finished. The car to be used is very similar to that seen in America—handsome, comfortable, roomy. It will convey twenty-eight outside passengers, and twenty-two "insides," affording to all ample seat space and opportunity of passage, without the inconvenience which the ordinary means of conveyance, especially on a wet day, inflicts. The fare is fixed by Act of Parliament at a penny per mile, with an understanding that the charges may at any time be revised by the Board of Trade. Although the tramway carriage is narrower externally than an ordinary omnibus, it is 12 in. wider within, and very lofty. As one horse on a tramway is said to be equal to four on the road, the huge vehicle will be easily drawn by the customary pair. The promoters of the modern schemes have no doubt of their ability to avoid any hindrance or damage to the common street vehicles. The rails being level with the surface of the road, a carriage will be able to cross them without endangering its springs, as was the case with Train's ill-fated system, while the three-quarter inch groove in which the flange of the car-wheel runs is too narrow to entrap the flimsiest wheel of the most elegant vehicle, save, perhaps, the bicycle, which has not yet been made a matter of legislation. There are in the exhibition models of single and double lines. The gauge is unusually wide—over 4 ft. 8 in. The company which has provided these miniature specimens has



DEMONSTRATION OF UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN IN THE PRADO, MADRID.

carefully collected statistics to show the working of tramways in America, Canada, and the European cities where they have been introduced. From them it seems that in New York, in the year 1867, 78 million passengers were conveyed by 1380 horses, while in London 6677 horses drew only half that number. In Stuttgart during the year 1868 the street tramways carried 60 times the number of the population; in London the proportion was only 13 2-3rds. If the actual tramway works as the model promises, there can be no doubt the objections which proved fatal to the scheme when it was tried before will be no longer heard of, and all who have tried the experiment must acknowledge that on the score of comfort the tramway car bears somewhat the same comparison to the ordinary omnibus as the springless cart does to the phaeton. However, there is room in every large town for both systems, and the use of both for a very long time to come will be a necessity not to be avoided. Perhaps one of the most effective tramways at work in England is a line running through Salford. The main rails are simply iron plates "flush" with the roadway, but in the centre there is a smaller rail with a thin deep groove, and into this runs a guiding wheel, which the driver can hoist at pleasure. Hence, if the "rule of the road" demands it, he leaves the rails, and comes back again to the familiar groove without trouble or delay. The tramways we are to have in London will allow of no such deviation, and the wider thoroughfares will not, of course, so much require the advantage. The public interest in the revived question is shown by the numbers visiting the exhibition; and it is not a little singular that the exhibitor is frequently pined with queries as to the applicability of the plan to steam purposes.

OBITUARY.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY UNWYN ADDINGTON.—This old public officer, who had served upwards of fifty years in the Foreign-Office department of the State, died, on Sunday last, at his residence in Eaton-place. The late Mr. Addington was the son of the Right Hon. John Hiley Addington, by Mary, the daughter of Mr. Henry Unwyn, and was born March 24, 1790, therefore he was within a few days of completing his eightieth year. His father was the junior brother of the Right Hon. Henry Addington, who for a short time was Speaker of the House of Commons, and subsequently, on the resignation of Mr. Pitt, became Prime Minister, and was created first Viscount Sidmouth. It is strange to say that two of the first cousins of Mr. Addington predeceased him only a few days—namely, the Hon. Mrs. Pellew, widow of the Hon. and Very Rev. George Pellew, Dean of Norwich, and the Hon. Mrs. Currie, wife of the Rev. Horace Gore Currie. After his education at Winchester, Mr. Addington entered the diplomatic service, as a clerk in the Foreign Office, in 1807. He was attached to Lord Amherst's Mission to Sicily, in December, 1808; and to the Mission for negotiating between Spain and the colonies in January, 1812. In April, 1813, he accompanied the Mission to Berlin, and in September the same year proceeded with the Mission to Stockholm. He was appointed Secretary of Legation in Switzerland, in 1814, which post he occupied for several years, and was transferred to Copenhagen in January, 1821. In October, the following year, he proceeded to Washington, where he remained until he obtained his pension. After his retirement he was selected by the Foreign Minister of the day to act as Plenipotentiary for negotiating with the United States in January, 1826. Mr. Addington subsequently was Minister Plenipotentiary to the Diet at Frankfurt, Feb. 15, 1828; Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Madrid, Oct. 10, 1829; and retired upon a pension, Nov. 2, 1833. He was appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, March 4, 1842, which appointment he held up to April, 1854, and on his retirement from the public services was by Lord Palmerston recommended as an honourable addition to her Majesty's Privy Council. He enjoyed for his long and valued services a pension of £900 a year. Mr. Addington was married, in 1836, to Miss Estcourt, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Grinstead Bucknall Estcourt, and sister of the late Right Hon. Thomas Sotheron Estcourt, M.P.

EDWARD STANLEY, ESQ.—Mr. Edward Stanley, of Cross Hall, Lancashire, a collateral member of the noble house of Derby, died on Tuesday, at Grosvenor-square. He married, in 1819, Lady Mary Maitland, second daughter of James, eighth Earl of Lauderdale, by whom he leaves surviving issue a son, Mr. E. J. Stanley, and two daughters, Eleanor (formerly maid of honour to her Majesty), married to Colonel Long, and Augusta, Countess of Dartmouth. The deceased gentleman was descended from Sir Edward Stanley, of Bickerstaffe, who was created a Baronet Jan. 25, 1627, younger brother of Sir G. Stanley, Kt., of Cross Hall, Marshal of Ireland and Captain of the Isle of Man, and great-grandson of Thomas, second Lord Stanley, and Eleanor, daughter of Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury, and sister of Richard Nevill, the great Earl of Warwick.

MR. C. JEWISON.—The death is announced of Mr. Christopher Jewison, who held the office of Coroner for the Liberty of the Honour of Pontefract fifty-three years. Mr. Jewison was in his eighty-fifth year, and was, it is believed, the oldest Coroner in England.

MANCHESTER FREE LABOUR SOCIETY.—The committee have just issued their first annual report, which contains several statements of importance. The object of the institution is to defend both men and masters against the tyrannical action of trades unions; and the committee, after stating the nature of their operations with respect to carpenters, bricklayers, masons, and brickmakers, have much gratification in adding that there is now an open field in the building trade for all non-unionist and free labourers, and that honest, steady, and industrious workmen will now be enabled to obtain that independence which, as members of a trades union, they never could have done. As a registration society, the committee report that 610 workpeople have been registered during the past year, and that a large proportion have obtained employment through the medium of the society.

THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE BOMBAY AND THE ONEIDA.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company have received from their agent at Bombay the following telegraphic account of the disastrous collision off Yokohama:—"The collision between the Bombay and the Oneida occurred on Jan. 24, about twenty miles from Yokohama, at seven p.m. It was quite dark, the Oneida being under all sail, and going thirteen knots; the Bombay, steaming head to wind, going eight knots. The Bombay ported her helm, shutting in the Oneida's green lights. The Oneida starboarded her helm, crossing the Bombay's bows, rendering a collision unavoidable. The Bombay felt the shock so little that Captain Eyre did not think the Oneida could have been much damaged, and continued his voyage on to Yokohama. The Oneida was cut down on the quarter and soon sank, with 115 men. Two of her boats, with sixty-one men, escaped. Do not know the names of the officers drowned. Saved—Yates, master; Suddard, surgeon; Coningham, captain's clerk; and fifty-seven sailors and marines. The Bombay is not damaged."

PRINTERS' PENSION, ALMSHOUSE, AND ORPHAN CORPORATION.—The annual election and meeting of the above institution was held on Monday at the London Tavern—Sir Joseph Causton, Alderman and Sheriff, in the chair. Mr. Hodson, the secretary, read the report, from which it appeared that there were now seventy-eight pensioners upon the fund, thirteen having died during the year, and that ten additional pensioners would be elected on the present occasion, from a list of fifty-six candidates. The twenty almshouses were all occupied, and five orphans were now in charge of the corporation, and placed out at boarding-school. The Lord Mayor had consented to preside at the annual festival in May next. The litigation respecting the bequest left by the late Mr. Biggs for granting annuities to decayed printers or their widows had been closed, and the committee of the corporation, who were the medium through which the annuities were granted, had received the sum of £3810 from the Court of Chancery. There were now twenty-six males and fifty-two females receiving sums varying from £10 to £25 each per annum, and the number would now be increased by ten. The total income of the Pension Society for the year had been £2532; and, including £1053 paid to pensioners, £700 invested, and £256 transferred to the Almshouse Fund, the expenditure had been £2864—leaving a balance of £168. The invested fund was now £13,324. The legacy of £2000 from Mr. Wright, and the subscriptions of £1000 for building a new wing to the almshouses at Wood Green, had been invested. The cash balance of the Almshouse Fund was £324, and of the Orphan Fund, £126. The chairman moved and Mr. Dukes seconded the adoption of the report, which having been carried, the election of officers and routine business was proceeding with, after which the election of ten pensioners took place.

MUSIC.

If there was no novelty in the scheme of Mr. Henry Leslie's concert, on Thursday week, there was plenty of excellence. Excellence, for example, is the distinguishing characteristic of Mendelssohn's music to "Antigone," a work written, as all students of musical history know, by desire of the late King of Prussia, who, having made up his mind to revive Greek drama, persuaded Mendelssohn to illustrate the Sophoclean trilogy. Mr. Leslie rarely fails to include this fine work in the programme of the season, and its performance is generally worthy the reputation of his choir. It was so at the concert under notice, all the choruses being well given, particularly the "Hymn to Bacchus" (encored), in which Mendelssohn foreshadowed at least one of the Baul choruses in "Elijah." As usual, the beautiful quartet "O Eros" had to be repeated—an honour fairly won by singing above the average in quality. Mr. Chaplin Henry was an efficient bass soloist; but we cannot say that Mr. Phillips was an efficient reader. Would it not be well for the future to dispense with reading? Everybody knows, by this time, the plot of the drama; and the accompanied dialogue had better be left out altogether than spoiled by halting and tasteless declamation. The second part of the programme included Beethoven's violin concerto, played by Herr Joachim in the style peculiarly his own—that is to say, in the style which nobody else can approach. He obtained, and deserved, the most enthusiastic applause at the end of his task. Three minor selections followed. "With verdure clad" was sung by Miss Stephens, a débutante, gifted with a good voice and considerable intelligence. The remaining two pieces were the Chorus of Dervishes and the march from Beethoven's "Ruins of Athens." In the former most characteristic effusion Mr. Leslie's male voices appeared to striking advantage.

Madame Schumann appeared at last Saturday's Crystal Palace Concert, and was heard in the work which she plays as no one else can. We shall not discuss here the merits of Schumann's piano-forte concerto; those merits are the theme of much contention, so that only an exhaustive notice would be of the slightest avail. Enough if we express a brief opinion, which is, that the work has merits, of a singular order, mayhap, but merits nevertheless; and that, without deserving the high place its warmest admirers claim for it, it does not, on the other hand, deserve the sweeping censure awarded by others. Madame Schumann's playing was a striking exhibition of mastery over great difficulties. In point of fact, it justified the extravagant eulogiums sometimes pronounced upon the artist—which is not only saying a good deal but saying that which cannot always be stated with truth. Another important feature at this concert was Dr. Sterndale Bennett's symphony in G minor, written for the Philharmonic Society in 1864. Save at a performance in Leipzig, the work had previously been heard only when given by the proprietors of the MS., who, not unnaturally, wished to reap all possible advantage from their ownership. The time is now come, however, when thought should be given to the rightful honour of our distinguished English composer. Hence the Philharmonic Society will do well to print the symphony, and let the musical world generally profit by its beauty. For it has beauty of the tender, graceful type so much associated with Schubert—beauty, that is, which beguiles rather than extorts admiration. It won the admiration of Saturday's audience easily. Every movement was loudly applauded; and the courtly minut, upon which the semi-martial trio breaks with such striking effect, was encored by acclamation. Dr. Bennett himself could not have desired a finer performance. Among other items in the programme were Mendelssohn's rondo capriccioso (op. 14), played by Madame Schumann; the overture to "Preciosa," and that to "La Circassienne." Madame Florence Lancia obtained a recall for her singing in "Qui la voce;" and Mr. Byron gave three songs in very moderate style.

At Mr. Boosey's ballad concert, at St. James's Hall, last Saturday evening, there was a larger audience than usual, attracted, doubtless, by an announcement that half the programme would be devoted to Scotch songs. The artists engaged were those so frequently mentioned in connection with these concerts, and we need not say that thorough satisfaction was the result of their labours. After many familiar Scotch ditties, came a batch of new ballads; at the head of them Sullivan's "Village Chimes," which, sung by Madame Sherrington, met with uncommon favour. The remarkable dexterity at the piano of Herr Antoine de Kontski was, once more, a subject of general comment.

At last Monday's Popular Concert, a posthumous caprice in E minor, by Mendelssohn, was played for the first time. It was written at Leipzig in 1843, and seems not to have pleased its fastidious author. So far as concerns the first movement, an andante, we can understand this result; but the case is otherwise with regard to the second movement—a brilliant and effective fugue, as well worked as anything by the great masters of counterpoint. The caprice is for a quartet of strings; and was so finely played by MM. Joachim, Ries, Straus, and Piatti, as to obtain a very hearty encore. Another novelty—Bach's Fantasia Cromatica—introduced Mr. Charles Hallé, whose execution of a difficult work was as perfect as could have been desired; more perfect than, looking at the character of the music, could have been expected. The audience had another treat of the same character in the playing, by Master Arthur LeJeune, of Henry Smart's organ fantasia in G. For this, in response to an encore, the boy-artist substituted one of Bach's fugues, in which his pedalling was marked by surprising facility and correctness. The other works given at this concert need only be mentioned. They were Beethoven's trio in C minor (op. 9), and his sonata in G major (op. 96) for violin and piano. The vocalist was Miss Enriques, a contralto of whom we are not without hope.

On Wednesday evening, Mr. Barnby conducted an oratorio concert in St. James's Hall, whereat Beethoven's choral fantasia and mass in D were performed. The pianist was Madame Arabella Goddard, who, for the first time, suffered by the confusion incident to a varied pitch. Mr. Barnby adopts the *diapason normal*, and no concert grand piano could be found to match it. Madame Goddard was therefore compelled to use a semi grand, with what loss of effect we need not say. She, however, played with all her accustomed brilliancy and precision, and fairly won the applause which followed the close of her task. The choral portion of the fantasia was excellently sung; but the quartet might have been better for half an hour's rehearsal. With so little time at command any attempt to discuss Beethoven's stupendous mass would result in failure. We reserve the task, therefore, and merely say now that Mr. Barnby has won the highest credit for so bravely attacking difficulties which appal most other men, and for overcoming them to a degree rarely witnessed on previous occasions. He was fortunate in his subordinates: in a quartet of soloists, Madame Rudersdorff, Madame Patey, Mr. Cummings, and Herr Stepan, which, perhaps, was the best obtainable; in a chorus, whose enthusiasm and perseverance cannot be too highly praised; and in a band, led by Mr. Carrodus, which earned a due share of honour. We applaud the whole enterprise unreservedly, and hope that Mr. Barnby will vigorously run the course upon which he has entered.

ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE AND CIRCUS.—The proprietors of the Amphitheatre and Circus on Monday produced an artist designated "Fraulein Laura." The Fraulein was announced in the programme "as the most daring, graceful, and beautiful performer on the lofty wire ever witnessed. At an immense elevation, and on a wire no thicker than a man's finger, she accomplishes all the most difficult feats ever attempted by the great Blondin, and concludes her performance by carrying a person on her back the whole length of the circus—unquestionably the most astounding exhibition ever witnessed." Although unable to endorse the whole of this flattering description, we can give the Fraulein great credit for her skill, daring, and intrepidity. She is one of the best female rope-dancers, and her personal appearance is also much in her favour. All that Blondin does on his thick rope—except drive a bicycle—Laura performs on a comparatively thin wire. She was favourably received by a large audience, and to witness her feats alone is worth a visit to the Amphitheatre. A comic interlude, entitled "The First Riding Lesson," concludes a long, agreeable, and diversified programme. Selections of music are performed by an excellent band, under the able direction of Mr. G. Clements.

THE PROSECUTION OF THE REV. CHARLES VOYSEY.

PENDING the appeal in this case, proposals were made that the prosecution should be dropped on condition of Mr. Voysey resigning his preferment, the Archbishop of York making the abandonment of proceedings dependent on two conditions—viz., that Mr. Voysey should pay £200 as costs, and enter into an engagement never again to accept of preferment in the Church of England. These negotiations have broken down; and the following letter from Mr. Voysey to his solicitor will show the present position of this case:—

Dear Mr. Shaen,—I have given very careful thought to the subject of your letter of Feb. 1, and to your subsequent communication that you found my resignation would not be accepted unless it were accompanied by a personal undertaking on my part not to accept any other preferment in the Church of England, and also by a substantial payment on account of the costs which have been incurred by the prosecutors. I have also taken counsel with some of those friends on my committee and my defence fund list who, in my opinion, are best able to advise me. It is true that most of them were in favour of my resigning my benefice, provided only that the contest in which I have been engaged were to issue unmistakably in a "drawn game," and that the arrangements between myself and my prosecutors should involve no triumph on either side. The advantage of my thus retiring from the contest might have been very great, because it would have left quite undecided those questions of law which have been raised, and this would have prevented the remotest possibility of fresh restrictions being put on the liberties of the clergy.

But my advisers, while agreeing as to the resignation of my benefice, echoed the wishes of my own heart in urging me not to resign my position as a clergyman of the Church of England, but to wait quietly and hold myself in readiness for future work as a curate, or for any preferment which might be offered me. Since your first interview with Mr. Lee events have occurred—more particularly in Convocation—which have materially altered my own view, and the view of some of my friends, of what would be the probable result on the minds of the Liberal party in the Church were I to resign my living and withdraw my appeal.

There is something in the very atmosphere of the ecclesiastical world which seems to me to be stifling and paralysing to all feeling of manly independence. Everywhere are indications of mutual distrust and of a timidity which makes men, who are otherwise high principled and noble, adopt a course better suited to render their own paths pleasant than to uphold, at all cost, the interests of truth and liberty, which are vital alike to individual and social integrity. I believe that my resignation, however qualified and explained it might be, would be regarded—and justly regarded—as another instance of the desertion of a cause, and the abandonment of a principle, far more injurious to the world at large than any rupture which might be inflicted on the Church by the possible failure of my appeal. One determined protest against the prevailing cowardice would be more good in the end both to Church and State than any compromise or capitulation; and I cannot overcome the feeling that my resignation would be an attempt to secure my own safety from judicial condemnation by the sacrifice of self-respect, and to the detriment of the whole body to which I belong. It is true, indeed, that I have said all along—and I now repeat—that I have no wish to stay in a Church which enforces on the clergy and people the doctrines which I have denounced. But there is only one way in which the Church can now give an opinion as to those doctrines. My appeal must first be heard by the Judicial Committee of Privy Council, and no other voice in all England is authorised to decide this momentous question. I will keep my word, and yet adhere to my original terms. What I will not do is either to accept the opinion of individuals in place of that judicial decision which I have challenged, or to become my own judge by retiring voluntarily from the Church of England.

I feel with increasing pain and loss the position in which I have been placed by the prosecution, more especially by the inhibition. I do not wish to disguise my misery in being thus publicly silenced in my own parish and in the midst of my own family and friends. My prosecutors are welcome to all the pleasure they can derive from knowing how deeply I have been hereby wounded, aggravated as this is by the prospect of indefinite delay before my appeal can be heard. I have said this much about my own feelings only to show that on purely personal grounds, and even on the lowest ground of my pecuniary position, I have every inducement to buy myself off into comparatively worldly prosperity and freedom of speech. But all these troubles, and ten times more, I would bear rather than add to the number of those who, in these days of timidity, are persuaded out of courage and independence, all devotion to a cause, all firmness in principle.

I will not run away—I will not try to avert the consequences of my conduct, which I believe to have been right both in law and morals, by withdrawing the challenge which I have thrown down. It is my firm conviction that the time has come, or is very near at hand, for a great amount of daylight and fresh air to be poured in upon the Articles of our Church; and then it will be seen, not only how much at variance with them, as *legal documents*, are the sermons of this man or that man, but how universally impossible it is for the clergy to preach or to teach otherwise than in contradiction to some statement or statements contained in the Creeds and Articles. These are *legally* binding, no doubt; but in practice they do not bind a single Bishop, priest, or deacon among us all. Some day it will be seen how unfair is the attack which has been made upon me, and posterity will only excuse the injustice on the score of ignorance and prejudice. No; I will not go out of the Church. I must first be judicially condemned before I move one step beyond the pale of my orders. On the Church, through its highest court, let there fall the deserved odium of narrowing, in this age above all others, the limits of free thought, and of damping up the expression of honest conviction. Let Protestantism, make this unholy divorce between her ministry and truth. Let her, at her own peril, pronounce a decree which will make fair inquiry into the basis of her creeds a temptation of the devil and free but one of thousands gathering strength and numbers every day. She may break me on her dogmatic wheel if she pleases, but this will be her last opportunity. Her Articles and Creeds will never stand the strain of this—the most stupid and suicidal piece of mischief to which they have ever been applied. On my prosecutors and not on me will be the responsibility of whatever evil may befall.

I conclude, therefore, that it is best for the interest of truth and principle in the first place, and for the welfare of the Church of England as a national Church in the second place, that this battle should be fought out, I, meanwhile, being contented to suffer the inevitable annoyance and losses consequent upon delay, and the brave and true men among the liberal clergy continuing to express their own convictions, regardless of what defeat or triumph may be waiting for me. Were but half a dozen to do this, the chances of the success of the prosecution would be overwhelmed. You will understand this letter as distinctly declining to authorise you to continue any negotiation for my resignation.—Believe me, dear Mr. Shaen, very sincerely yours,

Wm. Shaen, Esq.

CHARLES VOYSEY.

PRESS PROSECUTIONS IN PARIS.—Last Saturday the Tribunal de Police Correctionnel pronounced judgment upon the editor and several contributors to the extinct journal *La Reforme*. The charges were mainly founded upon articles which the Court held to be provocative of disorder and contempt for the laws. M. Malespine was sentenced to 2500f. fine, and three months' imprisonment; M. M. Clement and Vermeil to four months' imprisonment, and 2000f. fine; M. Gustave Florents to three months' imprisonment, and 1000f. fine; M. Douvet to two months' imprisonment, and 500f. fine; M. Edmond Bazire, a writer in the *Marseillaise*, was condemned to three months' imprisonment and 500f. fine for uttering seditious cries and carrying a prohibited weapon—a small poniard. M. Vidal and Roger, successive managers of the *Jockey*, were convicted of publishing political articles without legal authority, and were each fined 100f. The *Jockey* was declared to be suppressed, but that paper ceased to appear some time since, and has been succeeded by the *Guez*, of which M. Roger is the manager. This journal having infringed the law in the same manner as its predecessor had done, M. Roger was again fined 100f., and the *Guez* declared to be prohibited from further publication.

EPISCOPAL CONCORD AT ROME.—The Bishop of Montpellier has addressed the following letter to the *Français* in reference to the epistle of Bishop Laval, lately published:—"Rome, Feb. 27, 1870. To the Editor.—You have reproduced in your journal of the 24th of this month, without adding any comment, the letter which the Bishop of Laval thought it right to address to the editor of the *Semaine Religieuse* of the diocese, under date of the 7th of the present month. This letter is now known to everyone, and it is not necessary to quote the painful expressions which it contains. From respect for the age and character of the venerable writer it was right to allow time for a disavowal of the letter; or, if not disavowed, to give an opportunity for its retraction. It has not been withdrawn. It does not belong to me, certainly, in my weakness, to avenge the affronts offered to the Bishop of Orleans. The outrage he has received does not, indeed, transcend the limits of his patience and charity, and his Christian moderation. This kind of passionate attack cannot injure a Bishop whose whole life has been one of heroic devotion to the Holy See, and who in all his writings has upheld the cause of the Papacy. But the manifesto of the Bishop of Laval, issued while the Council is in full session, and before any decision has been arrived at by it, seems to be an assault upon its liberty; for each member of the Sacred Assembly may be subjected to similar attacks. The liberty of all suffers when the liberty of one is affected, as by these attacks, which proceed from a Prelate who is sitting among us, and it is of the first importance that a Council should be entirely free, wholly exempt from all pressure, from any quarter whatsoever. Accept, &c., FRANÇOIS, Bishop of Montpellier."

POLICE.

BOARD OF TRADE PROSECUTIONS.—Henry Carman, of High-street, Poplar, appeared before the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House, on Monday, on an information by the Board of Trade, charging him with having made certain false representations for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of competency as master in the British Merchant Service, contrary to a provision in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854. The defendant pleaded guilty. Mr. Cumberland, from the department of the Solicitor to the Customs, addressing the Bench, said:—Under a section of the Act the offence with which the defendant was charged was made a misdemeanour; but the Board of Trade, under another provision of the statute, had elected in this case to proceed in a summary manner. The Act provided that for such an offence a penalty not exceeding £100, with the alternative of imprisonment not exceeding six months, might be inflicted, and that was entirely in the discretion of the Court. The defendant had been for many years a mate in the merchant service, chiefly in the colonies, but returned to this country a short time ago, and wished to obtain from the Board of Trade a certificate of competency as master in the merchant service at home. To that end he was requested to fill up a form of application provided by the Board of Trade, and to insert in it, among other circumstances, particulars as to his previous service. On Jan. 21 last he presented to the examiners at the Local Marine Board of the Port of London that form of application, filled up and signed by him, in which he stated he had served in the vessel Matilda Hayes, belonging to Wellington, New Zealand, as master, for six years and five months. Upon that, reference was made to the Registrar-General of Seamen, and, from the records of his department, it appeared that, instead of serving six years and five months in that vessel, he only served fourteen months. It was to conceal the very serious offence of deserting that he made the false allegation of which he was now accused. The defendant, in answer to the charge, said he did not make the representation with any intention to defraud or injure anyone, and he was sorry for what he had done. The Lord Mayor said it might be he had not injured any one by the misrepresentation, but his offence was in trying to obtain a certificate to which he was not entitled, and so to cover his desertion. He sentenced him to pay a fine of £25, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment.

AN ECCENTRIC WITNESS TO ECCENTRICITY.—At Marylebone, on Monday, a woman was charged with felony. Mr. Pain, solicitor, appeared for the defence, and enlarged upon the eccentricities of the prisoner, and called an old lady, who answered as follows:—Mr. Pain—"You know the prisoner?" Witness—"Yes; Oh, yes." Mr. Pain—"How long have you known the prisoner?" Witness—"Ever since she was a child." Mr. Pain—"I don't know when she was born. How long might that be?" Witness—"When she was a baby." Mr. Pain—"Now, then, as regards her eccentric habits, what do you know of her?" Witness—"Well, Sir, I have trusted her with my washing for many years, and she always brought it home safe." Mr. Pain—"Never mind about the washing, what I want to know is as regards her general character. You know she is eccentric at times?" Witness—"She is like most young women who are covetous, and you know when persons are covetous they are always dishonest." Mr. Pain—"You can stand down;" and (addressing his Worship) he said, after the last witness, he should call no more to character. The prisoner was committed for trial.

"JACK ASHORE."—At Westminster, on Monday, Patrick Connors, an able-bodied seaman in her Majesty's service, was charged with assaulting Charles Miller, a refreshment-house keeper, of 18, High-road, Knightsbridge. Mr. Miller said that, about eleven o'clock last night, the prisoner came into the house and disturbed the people by jumping on the tables. He (the witness) remonstrated with him, and prisoner asked for a peck of beans and a peck of oats. The witness went to serve his customers, and the prisoner jumped over the counter and struck him in the face. He also broke several plates in getting over the counter. The prisoner denied the assault, and said the prosecutor took his money and refused to serve him; he was drunk. Mr. Selfe—"Are you in her Majesty's service?" Prisoner—"Yes, Sir, I came up yesterday, and I am going back to-day." Mr. Selfe—"No, you're not. I am not going to have you go into a man's shop and running amuck in this way. You are sentenced to seven days' hard labour."

POCKET-PICKING IN CHURCH.—William Demain, twenty-one, was charged at Marlborough-street, on Monday, with picking pockets at a church. Mr. Gaze, landlord of the Royal Arms public-house, Gaisford-street, said that on the Sunday before last his wife's pocket was cut away as she left St. Luke's Church, Kentish Town, where she had attended morning service. She had observed that a man pushed rather rudely against her, and the prosecutor, furnished with a description of his person, went to the same church last Sunday morning, and took a seat near the door. As the congregation were leaving, the prosecutor saw the prisoner follow a lady down the aisle, and when she reached the door he dropped back and went behind another lady. The prosecutor then seized the prisoner, whose hand was under the lady's dress, and gave him into custody. Mrs. Gaze identified the prisoner as the man who on the preceding Sunday had kept close to her side as she left the church. Mr. D'Eyncourt sentenced the prisoner to six months' hard labour as a rogue and vagabond.

FRAUD UPON LORD GEORGE HAMILTON.—John Ashton and William Godfrey were charged before Mr. Tyrwhitt, at Marlborough-street, on Tuesday, with obtaining from Lord George Hamilton, M.P., the sum of one guinea by means of false representations. Lord George Hamilton said last year, after he was returned as one of the members for Middlesex, he received numerous applications for subscriptions for various objects, and amongst others he was solicited to subscribe to the different regattas on the Thames. He did so, believing they were bona-fide regattas. This year he refused to subscribe unless a document was produced by the applicant for subscriptions showing that he had subscribed the previous year. Being surprised at

the number of documents shown to him bearing his signature when the prisoner Ashton called on him that day with a document headed "The Tottenham Regatta, 1869," which bore his signature, and not remembering to have subscribed to this regatta, he inspected the document closely, and found that the word "Tottenham" had been placed on the erasure of some other name. He asked Ashton the meaning of this. Ashton said he did not know much about it; he only collected subscriptions because he had spare time and knew the subscribers. On looking down the list of subscribers he found the names of the Lord Mayor, Mr. Goschen, M.P., and Lord Enfield, M.P., there, and he then signed his name and paid a guinea, thinking that the parties whose names he had seen might easily be referred to. He afterwards called at Lord Enfield's and saw Lady Enfield, his Lordship not being at home, and ascertained that the signature was not that of his Lordship. As the system of obtaining money by such deceptive means was very prevalent, he gave Ashton into custody. Godfrey was subsequently apprehended. The prisoners were remanded.

UNCERTAIN JURISDICTION.—A poor labouring man applied to Alderman Stone, at Guildhall, on Tuesday, for assistance under the following distressing circumstances:—He said that some time ago he sent a joint of beef to a baker's to be cooked; and, as his meat had been frequently cut before, he marked it particularly, and when it came back there were the marks where a quantity of it had been cut off. He applied to this court for redress, and was told that this court had no jurisdiction in the matter, but that he must go to the county court. He accordingly took out a summons against the baker in the City of London Court, and it had just been heard by Mr. Commissioner Kerr. His Honour had decided that it was not a case for his court, as it was an act of stealing, and referred him back to this justice-room, at the same time dismissing the summons in his court, and making him pay 15s. for defendant's costs. The applicant now wanted to know whether there was any law in England by which he could obtain redress. Alderman Stone said it was clearly not a case for this court, but for the county court, but as he had lost his suit there, he advised the applicant not to waste any more time over it, but to put up with his present loss as the lightest. The applicant left the court grumbling at the difficulty there was in obtaining justice.

HOW THIEVES ARE MANUFACTURED.—At Worship-street, on Tuesday, Mary Ann Justian, aged twelve, and Elizabeth Moseley, twelve, were charged, on remand, before Mr. Newton, with having stolen 8s. 9d. from the person of Mary Ann Howard. Elizabeth Moseley, thirty-one, mother of the girl, was charged with having received the same. The girl Howard met the two younger prisoners, and, being acquainted with them, stopped to talk. She showed them some money wrapped in paper, which she carried in her hand, but, at the suggestion of Moseley, put it in her pocket. Soon after she had left the prisoners the girl Howard missed her money, and told her mother. Information was given to the police, and Justian was taken on a charge of stealing a pinafore from a dwelling-house. She then made an admission, which the girl Moseley subsequently substantiated, by saying that she had taken the money out of Howard's pocket. She added that her (Moseley's) mother had told her to go out and get what she could. Mrs. Moseley had also received the pinafore which Justian had stolen, and it had been pledged, in the name of Moseley, for 1s. 6d. Mr. Newton committed the prisoners for trial—the children for stealing, and the mother for inciting to thieve and for receiving.

SINGULAR EXCUSE FOR DRUNKENNESS.—At the Aberdare Police Court, on Tuesday, a labourer, named Morgan Bowen, was charged with being drunk and riotous at Capoech on the 16th ult. Police-Constable Castle proved the charge. The prisoner, in defence, handed in the following letter to the magistrates:—"The humble petition of Morgan Bowen to the honourable bench of magistrates at Aberdare. Gentlemen,—Having unfortunately and accidentally infringed and violated moral law, your humble petitioner, being a total abstainer from all intoxicating drinks for five months previous to the present misfortune, having felt myself chilly, and, according to advice, I drunk few glasses of whisky, being ignorant to a great degree of its effect, accidentally felt as to require the aid of law to take me home. Your humble petitioner will ever pray your honourable bench for reduction of the crime according to law.—Yours most obediently, MORGAN BOWEN." The letter was greeted with roars of laughter. Mr. Fowler remarked that it was a mercy the law was walking about to take him home. (Laughter.) The defendant was fined 5s. and costs.

"FANCY" BREAD AND NASTY BUTTER.—At the Sheffield Townhall, last Saturday, a provision-dealer named Charles Fielding was summoned, under a borough bye-law, for being in possession of about 350 lb. of butter, which was in a nearly putrid state, the smell being worse than that of manure. The defendant, who does a very large business, did not deny that the butter was bad, but said he generally sold it to confectioners, who made fancy bread, &c., with it. He denied that he retailed it in the shop, and said he had for seventeen years sold it to confectioners at about 9d. per lb. It was Canadian butter, and he had sometimes about 200 firkins (nearly 17,000 lb.) of it on his premises. The Bench commented on the case, and ultimately ordered the butter to be destroyed, and inflicted a fine of 20s., the extreme penalty under the bye-law.

MURDERS AND SUICIDES.—A shocking tragedy was discovered at Old Ford-road on Sunday night; the dead bodies of a man and his wife being found in the house in which they had for some time previously resided. The woman, named Banks had been dead long enough for the process of decomposition to set in; but the man is supposed not to have been dead more than two days. The deaths are believed to have been caused by charcoal suffocation, the air passages and crevices in the

room being carefully pasted over with pieces of newspaper.—A frightful crime was perpetrated in Blenheim-street, Newcastle, on Monday morning. A labourer, named William Walton, fifty years of age, occupied two cellar-kitchens, with his wife and child. They had another labourer, named Frederick Atkin, lodging with them. Walton had become jealous, and suspected some improper intimacy existed between his wife and the lodger. On Monday morning he attacked her with a razor, and inflicted a terrible gash across her throat. He did not leave her until she lay dead on the floor. The murderer then attacked the lodger in his room, and wounded him frightfully before he could escape. Walton then committed suicide by cutting his own throat. Atkin was removed to the infirmary, but is not expected to recover. The man and wife, who were found side by side, had only been married eight months.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—Vice Chancellor Stuart sanctioned, on Saturday last, a compromise which has been effected respecting the legacy left by the late Mr. Etches, of Derby, to the Crystal Palace Company. Mr. Etches left £20,000 Crystal Palace Company ordinary stock, and £10,000 7 per cent preference shares of the same company, to be applied by the directors for the purposes of promoting the opening of the palace on Sundays, and after that object was attained, in adding to the attractions of the palace and grounds. The validity of this bequest was disputed by the residuary legatees, and, after much negotiation, the directors have agreed, by way of compromise, to take one half of the bequest, and the residuary legatees have agreed to take the other half.

SAD DEATH OF A YOUNG LADY.—On the evening of the 6th inst. a young lady, aged 21, named Maria Colby, daughter of a chemist in a large way of business in Brighton, disappeared in a very mysterious manner. The young lady, who is described as of slightly impaired intellect, but of very prepossessing appearance, was with her sister on a visit to their uncle, Mr. Bull, a gentleman of independent means, residing at Spring Grove, Isleworth. Last Sunday evening she was sitting at home reading to her uncle, and he, seeing her calm and singularly enlightened manner, was thrown off his guard. The sister had gone to Spring Grove Church, and the other unfortunate young lady smilingly said she would like a short walk, and would therefore go to meet her sister coming out of church. She then put on her hat and cloak and left the house. Nothing more was seen of her that night by her anxious friends; but, on inquiries being made, it was ascertained that she was last seen at Isleworth station at 7.20 p.m., when she took a first-class ticket for Waterloo. On Tuesday morning, nothing further having been heard of the missing young lady, a reward of £10 was offered for her restoration to her friends. All conjecture, however, was put a stop to that same evening when a young man named Thomas Dorey, of Strand-on-the-Green, whilst rowing on the river, discovered the body of a female close to the Surrey shore, near Kew Bridge. The friends of the missing young lady were communicated with, and on their arrival the body was at once identified. Every possible inquiry has been made, but no information can be gleaned of the actions of the deceased after she was last seen at the railway station. The sad affair has cast quite a gloom over the neighbourhood, where deceased's friends are well known. The body now awaits the Coroner's inquest.

HISTORY OF A FOUNDLING.—The legal journals of Paris contain a curious history of a foundling. In the month of July, 1814, a new-born female infant, wrapped up in fine linen, on which were marked the initials "H. L." was found on the steps of a hospital in Rouen. She was taken care of in that hospital, brought up there, and, until three years ago, she continued to live in that hospital as a servant. When upwards of the age of fifty this poor woman was made aware that she was in reality the illegitimate child of a very great lady, who had made a slip before she was married, got rid of her offspring in the manner above stated, married shortly afterwards to a wealthy man, and had kept her secret during half a century of married life. It was after the death of the husband, who survived his wife but a few months, that the servant at the Rouen hospital commenced her suit for that small part of an inheritance which the French code awards to an illegitimate child. Her case seemed almost hopeless in consequence of the difficulty of proof after such a lapse of time, and the wealth and influence of her opponents. Nevertheless, she found an attorney who undertook her cause on the principle of "no cure no pay," but who stipulated that in case of success he was to have £1000 (25,000fr.) Her suit failed in the Court of First Instance, but she gained it on appeal, and came into a fortune of 75,000fr. to 100,000fr. So far there is an end of the romance, which comes to a happy conclusion. The prosaic supplemental story—the occasion of the litigation which leads to the story being told—is that she declined to pay her attorney the stipulated fee of 25,000fr., which she said was too much. The Court cut down the bill to 10,000fr.

A LONG LITIGATION.—The French Court of First Instance has just given judgment in a new stage of the litigation which has been going on at frequent intervals, for the last 200 years, about the succession of Jean Thiery, of Chateau Thiery, in Champagne, who made a will in Corfu, in 1654, and died in Venice shortly afterwards. Jean Thiery, being a waiter at an hotel in Brescia, met a wealthy Corsican merchant and skipper named Athanasius Tipaldi, who took a fancy to him, made him his lieutenant in many perilous voyages, and, finally, left him a very large fortune. Thiery, by his will, claimed to belong to a very ancient family, and designated certain branches of that family as his universal legatees. His property, which was very large, was deposited at the Bank of Venice, called the Zecca, and from the day of his death to this hour none of the numerous claimants have ever made out their title to the satisfaction of a court of law. When General Bonaparte took Venice in 1797, he seized upon 20,000,000fr. belonging to the "Succession Thiery." The money was paid into the French Treasury, not as spoil and booty of war, but as the property of a deceased French subject which awaited a rightful claimant. As many as 1500 people have at various times appeared before French law courts as next of kin of Jean Thiery, but their suits have always

been dismissed from a flaw in their pedigree, the principle being, however, admitted that the rich inheritance was not the property of the State, but did, notwithstanding the lapse of time, belong to some descendants of the Thiery family. The present suit was instituted, with very high hopes, by a M. and Madame Cotton, who made out an almost irrefragable case to show that Madame Cotton was a genuine descendant of the right branch of the Thierys. But the Court, declining to go into the question of pedigree at all, has dismissed the case on various technical grounds. If the action will lie at all, as to which the Court expresses no opinion, it holds that it is brought against the wrong parties. The Prefect of the Seine is now made a defendant in the name of the State, whereas the judicial agent of the Treasury would have been the proper person to be sued. A very pertinent hint is thrown out that when General Bonaparte took the money it is by no means clear that he meant to hold it as trustee for the Thiery family. It is further suggested that, inasmuch as Venice now belongs to the kingdom of Italy, any claim against the old Venice Bank of 1797 might, perhaps, be properly laid before the Italian Finance Minister. For these and various other reasons M. and Madame Cotton's suit is dismissed, with costs; and one may safely predict a like fate to any other Thierys who may seek to interfere with the long quiet possession of the treasure by the French State.

THE WICKLOW PEERAGE CASE.—When the hearing of the claim to the Wicklow Peerage was resumed in the House of Lords, on Monday, their Lordships directed Mrs. Howard, the lady who has put forward the infant claimant as her son, to submit herself for cross-examination by Sir Roundell Palmer. She, however, refused to be sworn, and was committed to the custody of Black Rod for contempt of court. Witnesses were then called to prove that, in August, 1864, Mrs. Howard went through the lying-in ward of the Liverpool Workhouse in search of a child with blue eyes and fair hair, and that ultimately an infant belonging to a pauper named Mary Best was selected and taken away by Mrs. Howard to be adopted. Counsel for the claimant stated that time was required to produce rebutting testimony, and the case stands adjourned for a week. Mrs. Howard was released from custody on condition of her paying the usual fees.

AN IRISH ABDUCTION CASE.—At the Tipperary Petty Sessions, last week, a man named Timothy Donovan, residing at Cullen, was charged with attempting to abduct or carry away by main force a young woman of prepossessing appearance, named Catherine Humphries, Kilkoran, on the evening of Sunday, the 26th ult. A man named Kendal O'Brien was charged with aiding and abetting in the commission of the offence, but the name of the third party, for whom the "prize" was intended, did not transpire during the trial. The evidence of the young woman was to the effect that on the day in question, on coming out of a neighbouring house, where her parents, from whose tender care she was wellnigh being rudely snatched away, were after going to mass, Donovan, the principal defendant, accosted her on the road, and immediately afterwards took her up in his arms and attempted to carry her away by force. A short distance upon the road she observed a covered car, and Kendal O'Brien beside it on a bay steed, of presumably swift qualities. Not wishing to have her hand and heart, and further—what was thought to be the real cause of obtaining for her such rough attention—her fortune disposed of in this summary manner, she screamed out in a way that only young women under such circumstances will scream, and soon gave her Lothario (by proxy) to understand that he had caught a Tartar. During the scuffle that ensued she boxed his ears soundly, and she used a key which she held in her hand with such telling effect on her assailant's head and face that after a time he was glad to relinquish his rash project, and beat a hasty retreat. The Bench, on hearing the evidence, sentenced Donovan to one month's imprisonment. The case against O'Brien was dismissed.

A BOY ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.—GROSS NEGLIGENCE.—On Wednesday evening an inquest was held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on the body of Richard George Johnston, aged six. On Sunday afternoon the deceased, after coming out of school, went home to Rawstone-street, Clerkenwell. He played with his younger brother, who is between two and three years of age, for a short time, when the younger child saw his father's watch on the mantelpiece, and asked to have it to play with. The mother said he could not have it, but took down a revolver that was hanging over the mantelpiece, and said, "Here's a pretty thing for you to play with." She said, "See me shoot baby;" but the deceased asked to look at it. She gave it to him, and whilst he was looking down the barrel he pulled the trigger, on which a loud report followed, and the deceased fell back on to the floor, bleeding and dead. The horror-stricken mother at once picked him up and conveyed him in a cab to the hospital, where one of the house surgeons found that the bullet had passed through the eye to the back of the head, which caused instant death. The father of the deceased was up stairs, asleep, at the time of the accident, and had never informed his wife that the revolver was loaded. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and censured the father for not having told his wife that the revolver was loaded.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4.

BANKRUPTS.—A. HARVEYSON, Borough, glass and lead merchant—B. BARKER and N. ROBINSON, Low Moor, manufacturers—J. BROWN, Newport, commission agent—C. OCKEY, Worcester, saddler—S. HOLLIDAY, Little Hulton, provision-dealer—S. D. LITTELER, Tisbury, grocer—J. W. MORRIS, Tameside, secretary to a patent-anchor company—H. and J. NIELD, Charlsworth, hat manufacturers—D. O'CONNOR, Uttoxeter, elastic-web manufacturer—G. H. PRATT, Yarmouth, grocer—C. READ, Coventry, watch manufacturer—J. JONES, Tiddyswillough, farmer—J. PARRY, Bryn, Llanyowddwy, servant.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8.

BANKRUPTS.—W. S. BURNETT, Hammersmith, draper—J. BOND, Harland, plumber—J. G. CUNNINGHAM, Sunderland, timber merchant—B. IRELAND, Heydon, farmer—W. MOYSE, King's Lynn, shipowner—J. S. ROSENTHAL, Bradford, yarn manufacturer—N. J. TREGASKES, Far, coal merchant—E. KING, Manchester, washerwoman—G. CHADWICK, Huddersfield, cloth fuller.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. N. WHYTELAW, Glasgow, commission agent—T. FRASER, Glasgow, fireclay manufacturer—J. KERR, Glasgow, fish curer—D. ROBERTSON, Glasgow, iron merchant—D. MILLER, Glasgow—A. CAIRD, Muthill, 1000 tractor.

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